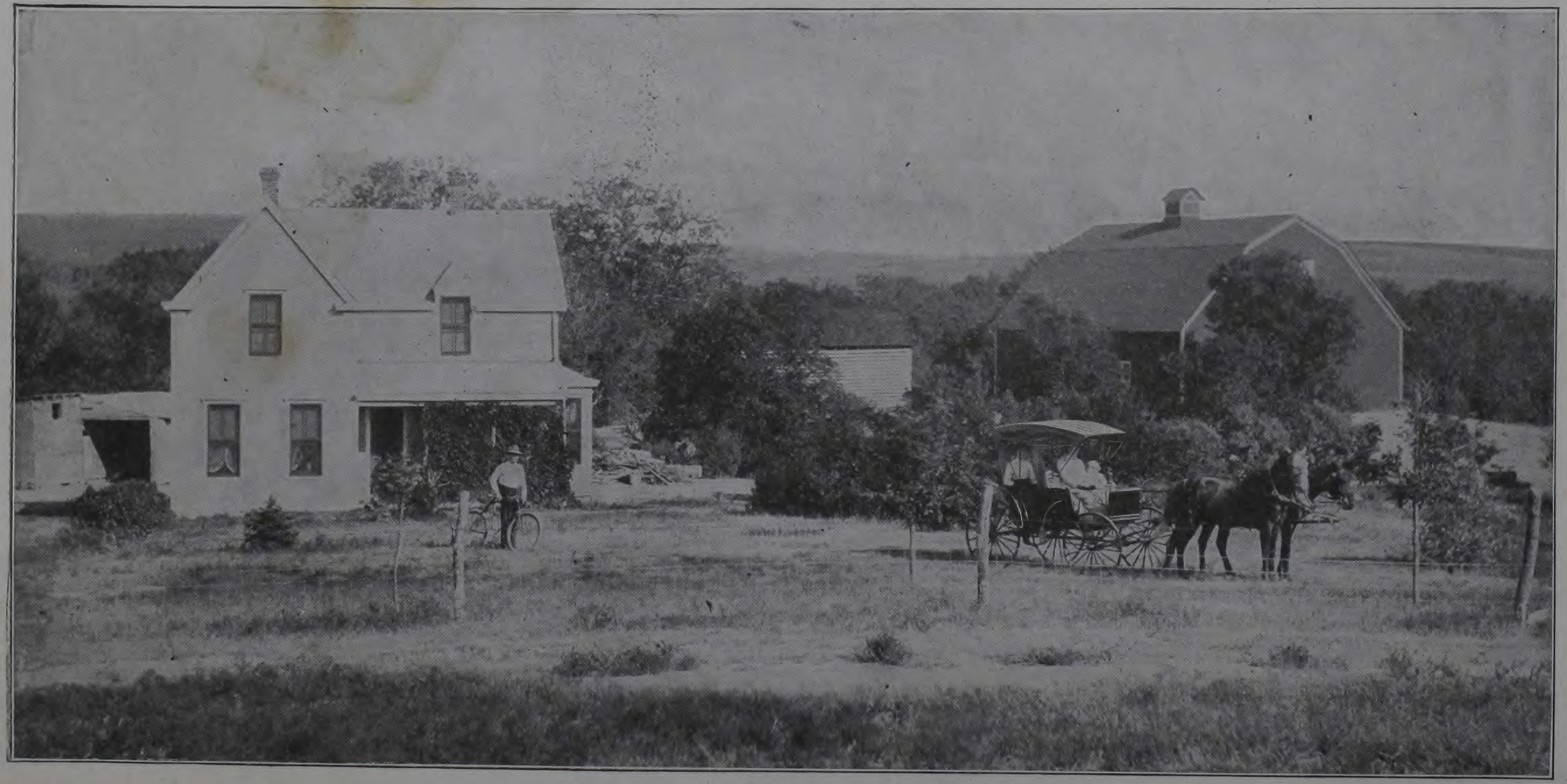
ROCK ISLAND STATES SOUTHWEST



A KANSAS HOME.

Rock Island States Southwest

A Brief Description
of That Vast Territory Traversed by
The Rock Island System
in Kansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory,
New Mexico and Texas

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Introductory

A CASUAL study of the territory accessible by, and tributary to, the Rock Island System would require a huge volume; for nearly every state and territory between the western ocean, the Mississippi river and the Great Lakes, from Minnesota to the southern boundary of Texas, are traversed or tapped by the Rock Island and its connections.

It is therefore necessary, that the reader may have a logical and orderly understanding of the matter in hand, to confine this description to those sections which may properly come under the heading of "The Great Southwest"—that is to say, those lands and cities in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and New Mexico which are not only the best field of activity for the Rock Island and the homeseekers and homemakers who travel thither, but are also typical of every topographical and climatic condition that can be found in all the southwest.

The rapid increase of population in the crowded centers, the well proved accounts of the native richness and equable climate of the southwest, the wonderful progress made in the agricultural communities of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico, the cheapness and utility of modern machinery, the reduction of farming to an almost absolute science, the wonderful activities of the railroads in building and operating into the new country—each of these influences have worked effectually towards the awakening of interest in the southwest. The boomers' opening of the Indian reservations of Oklahoma and the astonishing successes which followed; the marvels accomplished by irrigation in the once arid regions of Texas, New Mexico and the high altitudes of Colorado and western Kansas and Oklahoma, followed by the national government's adoption of a comprehensive plan for the reclamation of all arid and semi-arid lands; the discoveries of great coal, oil and lumber resources and the rapid inflow of capital and labor which followed have contributed to attract the attention of homeseekers, settlers, miners, cattlemen and capitalists to the great territory of the southwest.

Soils of a thousand varying degrees of fertility, lands which can be purchased at prices so low that they seem ridiculous as compared with similar areas in the east and north, a population, comparatively sparse as yet, but made up mostly of young men and women of American birth and endowed with all the health and energy that should belong to a race of pioneers—such are the general conditions prevailing in that vast section of the southwest

through which the Rock Island System passes; and it is to a brief particularization of the different characteristics of various sections that this short treatise is directed. The climate, the water supply, the soils, the possibilities and performances of this crop and that, the difficulties to be encountered, the facilities offered, the methods of the successful husbandman and the enterprises, whether of extensive irrigation or manufacturing, which promise the best and surest returns for those who would cast their lot in the New Country—these are the topics to be touched upon briefly and with the fixed and frank purpose of recording the truth about the whole region.

Two imaginary lines starting at Denver, one passing southwardly to El Paso, Tex., and one eastwardly to the Mississippi river, would form respectively the western and northern boundaries of a great area, which, from its greatest altitude at Denver, tilts gradually toward the Mississippi and the Rio Grande Rivers and the Gulf of Mexico. Across this vast succession of descending plateaus, plains, prairies, rolling fields and river bottoms, a hundred natural water courses seek their level with the sea and mark the varying landscape first with creeks, brooks and dry channels, later with considerable streams and small rivers, and finally with noble waterways upon which navigation is possible and which furnish a plenitude of water for every use.

The furthest western strip of this great empire, comprising part of Colorado nearest to the Rocky mountains, portions of New Mexico and western Texas, a slice of the western edges of Oklahoma and Kansas, and finally that almost rainless region known as the trans-Pecos section of Texas and reaching to the Rio Grande, makes up what is properly and necessarily described as an irrigation belt. This region is, however, capable of intense fructivity when watered, and the surprising performances of some of the fruit farms, vineyards, truck gardens and field farms seem to give proof of the truth of the belief of many, that farming by irrigation, in spite of the initial expense, is more profitable, more satisfactory and less arduous than the methods which obtain where rain is abundant.

In its course from Liberal, Kan., across the Panhandle and New Mexico to El Paso, Tex., the Rock Island System traverses a typical irrigation region, the actualities of which will be described in proper place. Between Wichita, Kan., and Ft. Worth, Tex., and throughout the extent of the Choctaw road and its tributary branches, the Rock Island penetrates that enormous territory which includes the garden spots of all America, the rich fields of central Kansas and Oklahoma, the black waxy belt of Texas, the fecund fields of eastern Oklahoma and all of Indian Territory where the rainfalls are sufficient, the central counties of Arkansas, and by connecting lines all of the prolific coast country, from the lower reaches of the Rio Grande, across Texas and Arkansas, where the rainfall averages sixty inches annually, and every grain, fibrous plant and fruit indigenous to the semi-tropics will flourish without stint. Another main line of this system bisects the northern counties of

Kansas, touching the very heart of the famous corn and cattle belt, running through the greatest wheat yielding area in the world, and after crossing the counties of western Kansas, trends north and south across the irrigated sections of eastern Colorado.

In order to maintain the southwestern complexion of this account, and for the purpose of good order and simplicity, only southern and western Kansas, Texas (including the Panhandle, the trans-Pecos region and the irrigable valleys), Indian Territory and Oklahoma will here be referred to.

Kansas

From Herington, in Dickinson county, Kan., a little east of the sixth principal meridian, the two southwestern arms of the

Rock Island, one headed toward El Paso, and the other almost due south toward Ft. Worth, stretch out through the two great sections most typical of the New Country. The pre-eminence of Kansas as a wheat raising state, and the fact that the Rock Island road ramifies through the leading counties of the wheat belt, gives special meaning to the following utterance of Secretary F. D. Coburn, now recognized as one of the leading agricultural experts in this country, and for many years Kansas' secretary of agriculture. He says:

"It is difficult for any one who has not been in touch with, or directly observant from year to year of, the progress and expansion of wheat growing in Kansas, from its small beginnings forty years ago, to comprehend how it is that the state has gradually

IN THE WHEAT BELT.

come to occupy the foremost rank as a producer of hard winter wheat, or how, in a quarter of a century, what were known as soft wheats have in nine-tenths of the fields been displaced by the red, flinty sorts, introduced from Russia, yet in every-day parlance grouped under the general head of 'Turkey' wheat.

"Forty years ago the Kansas area sown to wheat of all kinds —winter and spring, hard, medium and soft, white, and otherwise—was less than 10,000 acres. For ten years ending with 1900 the average has been 4,278,178 acres, and the yield per year, counting the good with the bad, was more than 46,272,000 bushels, while in the year 1901 there was harvested approximately 5,000,000 acres of winter wheat alone, yielding generously grain grading for quality as high on the whole as any preceding crop grown. The largest area previously sown to winter wheat was 4,909,972 acres, from which the crop of 1893 was harvested, and the state's largest wheat product was 77,339,091 bushels in the year 1900. (The United States agricultural report says the yield was 82,488,655 bushels.)

"Notwithstanding these wonderful aggregate outputs, the wheat crop in Kansas is subject to vicissitudes, as it is elsewhere, —though possibly to a less degree—as is readily suggested by the variation of the average per acre yield from less than four bushels in 1895 to more than twenty-two and one-fourth bushels in 1882. In thirty of the thirty-nine years for which definite figures are available, the average yield for all the acres sown was above ten bushels per acre, and for fifteen years has been fifteen bushels and above.

"Kansas is virtually the only portion of America producing the famous hard red wheat in considerable quantities, in which, as in many other things, the state is unique. The seed of this wheat was introduced about twenty-five years ago, being brought hither by Mennonite immigrants coming from southern Russia near the Black sea, who apparently understood much better than Americans its hardy productiveness and real value.

"This has required a general remodeling of such mills as were already built, and the construction of the later mills on plans in some respects entirely different from the old, and now, out of all this, results the Kansas hard wheat flours, which have become famous in the world's most exacting markets as superior to nearly all others wherever made in America, and are conceded equal to the flours made in Hungary from wheats grown in that country and in Bohemia. This is true either for use alone or for blending with and giving quality to other pretentious makes represented as peculiarly choice because made from extra fancy grades of spring wheat grown elsewhere.

"The best of this wheat is perhaps most largely grown in the central third of the state from east to west and in altitudes ranging from 1,300 feet in Marion county to 2,100 feet in Edwards, an average close to or slightly below 1,600 feet. The four largest wheat producing counties, Sumner, Barton, Rush and McPherson, have an altitude for each respectively averaging about 1,250, 1,900, 2,075 and 1,450 feet. These wheats do not retain their peculiar characteristics so well when grown in the extreme east-

ern and southeastern counties, showing a tendency to assume more the qualities of soft wheat, and this is true, but to a much less extent elsewhere, wherever they are grown in Kansas.

"It would be an error, however, to convey the impression that no soft winter wheats are grown in the state, as in the central and eastern portions such varieties as Fulcaster, Fultz, Early May, and other similar wheats are not uncommon. The soft, white, large berried sorts brought from Michigan do not do well, and the same may be said of the white wheats from California, Oregon and other western territory.

"Probably the average quantity of seed used per acre by the Kansas wheat sower is five pecks, and this varies according to quality, location, method and time of seeding and the whim of the sower, from a minimum of three to a maximum of six pecks. Perhaps nine-tenths of this is planted with drills, the old style of sowing broadcast being discarded. Not all of the wheat land is by any means plowed every year, it being very common, especially in the western half of the state, to drill directly among the stubble of the recently harvested grain; it is claimed that this gives a firmer seed bed, with much less danger of the surface soil being moved about by high winds and of leaving the roots naked to the weather. Much of the ground, however, that is not plowed is scarified with disc harrows before seeding, and a very satisfactory condition is obtained thereby. Rotation is something to which the Kansas farmer has as yet given little thought, but his methods will change with years.

"The following table shows the acres, product and value of Kansas winter and spring wheat for the ten years:

YEARS.	ACRES.	PRODUCT.	VALUE.
1891	3,733,910	58,550,653	$42,596,759.09
1892	4,129,829	74,538,906	40,691,762.03
1893	5,110,873	24,827,523	11,032,932.04
1894	4,840,892	28,205,700	11,297,797.13
1895	4,171,971	16,001,060	7,463,118.47
1896	3,357,727	27,754,888	13,257,193.77
1897	3,444,364	51,026,604	34,385,304.69
1898	4,624,731	60,790,661	32,937,042.28
1899	4,988,952	43,687,013	22,406,410.00
1900	4,378,533	77,339,091	41,974,145.00

"That Minnesota is a great wheat state all the world concedes, and according to the Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture, Minnesota had in 1900 a considerably larger acreage in wheat than Kansas, but the Year Book gives on the same page the Kansas yield as greater by more than 60 per cent, and its value greater by 40 per cent."

Here then for the northern and eastern farmer with a well established partiality for the great staple, wheat, is an expert opinion of what has been and can be done in the finest wheat district on earth. The central southern counties of Kansas comprised in the wheat belt, lying as they do along the upper tier of Oklahoma counties, are not widely different in soil and adaptation from the latter. Writing from Abilene in the spring of 1902, a representative of certain Chicago manufacturing and jobbing interests has this to say about the central southern portion of Kansas:

"Abilene is the chief town of Dickinson county, the most eastern of the wheat raising counties of Kansas. It has less than 4,000 population, and you can count the stores of any one leading line on the fingers of one hand. But it caters to a rural population of over 20,000 persons. Don't forget that. Its few stores do enough business annually to keep twice as many houses of the eastern type busy and prosperous. The nine banks of that county have on deposit more than $100 per capita for every man, woman and child in it. It's nearly all 'crop money.' He doesn't owe it and he is a generous spender, but 'town' is a convenience, not an ambition, with the Kansas farmer. He doesn't want to live in town. He has a telephone in his house; he gets the daily newspapers; he has hot and cold water and porcelain bathtubs in his house; he isn't a jay at all; he wears a raglan, and his children have been to school to the Normal or the State University, and he has no hesitation in arguing politics, finance or anything else with the president of a bank, a United States senator or a commercial traveler from Chicago. There are over a hundred farmhouses in Dickinson county that cost $10,000 or more apiece. In 1901 it raised 2,107,460 bushels of hard wheat, but, having recently developed into a dairy district, came to the front with an annual

NOT A DRY COUNTRY.

KANSAS BREAD.

yield of $375,960 worth of milk, 176,000 pounds of butter and 89,500 pounds of cheese 'on the side.'

"The point I wish to make out of all this is that, in Kansas as nowhere else in the United States, the town has got to go way back and be seated. Since the urban boom of ten years ago 'busted' and became a vague memory the Kansas farmer has had the laugh on the town folks. He's the 'chipperest,' sauciest, most irrepressible and richest citizen of the Sunflower state. In eastern Kansas, in the manufacturing districts of the southeastern section this is not so apparent, but in central Kansas, in the garden zone of the state, you must remember that when you offer goods to a town of 1,000 to 5,000 inhabitants you are bidding for the trade of the most populous, the wealthiest, the smartest farming communities on the face of the earth. And you can't fool them. They buy everything that's good, everything that they need or think they need, because they've got the money, they've got the confidence and they've got the nerve that is born of success, of suffering past years, of absolute knowledge of what they can do with the teeming soil whose mysteries have been a passion and a religion with them.

"The little town of Lyons, with its less than 2,000 population, surely must loom in your commercial appreciation when I tell you that the 15,000 population of Rice county which surrounds it raised in 1901 but little less than 4,000,000 bushels of wheat. Great Bend, a little town of only 2,300 people, backed by a county population of only 13,000, last year marketed for Barton county 4,830,000 bushels of wheat, and most of the money is in its little banks or distributed in the vaults of smaller villages of that

CLIPPING COUPONS—THE INVESTMENT PAYS.

PLEASURE AND PROFIT.

county. McPherson, of McPherson county, with its little cluster of stores and its 3,400 people, may not impress the vagrom traveler as 'worth while,' but its banks are still loaded with the returns of 3,568,661 bushels of 1901 wheat and more than $800,000 worth of cattle sold for slaughter. Hutchinson, in Reno county, with splendidly paved streets, fine stores and a bustling population of 10,000, speaks eloquently for herself, and yet her metropolitan pride rests lovingly and respectfully on the 20,000 farming population of the county which pays her tribute. Newton, in Harvey county, has but 6,500 inhabitants, and yet the little county about it, with an acreage of only 88,000 in wheát lands, last year produced over 1,856,000 bushels of high grade wheat.

"I met a Chicago salesman who told me the other day that he 'jumped' from Topeka to Wichita 'because there were no good towns' between. I asked him what he meant by a 'good town' and he naïvely replied:

"'Oh, say a town of 20,000 to 30,000, with at least half a dozen merchants in my line.'

"Now, that chap thought he was very smart. He thinks he is 'covering' Kansas, but I'll bet $4 he has competitors who have him beaten to a custard, both in the volume and profit of their trade in the same line, because they are 'next' to the small-town system of 'working' Kansas. It's the most singular state you ever saw. I have met farmer buyers in Newton who absolutely scorned the idea of buying anything in Wichita. Newton is 'our town' with Harvey county shoppers, and the degree of pride and civic patriotism they show for their own county seat or nearest village would be laughable if it were not actually edifying. Down in Missouri to be able to say, 'I bought that hat in St. Louis,' or down in Indiana or Illinois to prove that one's clothes were made in Chicago is a rural boast, a sign of superiority. But in Kansas—no! The Kansan looks down with frank and sincere scorn upon every town and state but his own. He will buy at home if he can, and he doesn't care a rap whether 'home' is a village of 600 Kansans or a city of 50,000. That's why the small town out here should not be overlooked.

"Take Wichita for a shining example of this home ruling,

splendidly poised spirit of intelligent self-appreciation. Wichita is the very sum and crown of the genuine Kansas community. Ten years after the ultimate catastrophe of its meteoric rise it stands to-day as fine a specimen of sturdy, solid, comely civic growth as any city of its size in the world. The 'hot air' men from the east, the speculators, the wildcat promoters from New England who made the boom and lay down and 'hollered' when it overwhelmed them, are gone, but the native Kansan is here, proud of himself, proud of Wichita, proud of his state. To him the Kansas cyclone and the Kansas boom are mere 'occurrences' of the dim past. Collapses and droughts remain in his sanguine memory as merely trivial incidents that are not worth mentioning. For him it is all sufficient that Kansas remains, richer, better, more beautiful than ever, consecrated indeed with her light coronet of sorrow and glorified by the majesty of her unalterable achievement. He believes and talks just like that, and if you smile incredulously he'll get out his books of statistics and prove everything he said. And at last he will look up confidently and add: 'Kansas is just getting a good start.'

"Upon the marginal lands of southern-central Kansas, near Wellington, Caldwell, Blackwell and other border towns of the state, coal, oil and gas have been discovered in quantities that speak for the future greatness of Wichita factories. In that indomitable city every store is occupied; 100 new ones are in course of erection; 212 new homes are being built and the monthly traffic of the business houses, exclusive of real estate, is four times greater than it was in the acute stage of the almost forgotten boom. The university buildings which lay loot to the bat for almost ten years, are occupied and astir with the young life of more than 2,000 students, mostly the sons and daughters of the farmers of Sedgwick and Sumner counties. A watch factory, built in the days of wild cat speculation and innocent of a single watch, has been turned into a cottonseed mill, in which tons of cattle food are ground out every day. There are $10,000,000 in the banks of Wichita where there were $2 in the heyday of the so-called boom. Arkansas City and Winfield, in Cowley county, have now each a population of more than 7,000. They are on the verge of the

BEEF IN THE RAW STATE.

new land of milk and honey, Oklahoma, whose magic name has brought into the southwest within the past ten years more expert farmers, more money per capita and more individual enterprise than even Kansas knew or dreamed of in her early day. The imaginary line which marks the boundary between Oklahoma and Kansas is no barrier to the natural exchange of commerce, and yet, with all the phenomenal growth of this border region, it is important to remember that the contiguous Indian lands in northeastern Oklahoma, northwestern Indian Territory and therefore cheek-by-jowl with southern Kansas, are standing at the threshold of a civilization sure to become part of the white man's domain within the decade.

"There is not in all the world to-day a region so rich in natural resources as this which has been just added, or is about to be added, to the advancing march of American civilization. I do not doubt that Kansas is, forevermore, sufficient unto herself, but if

A BUMPER CROP.

you will take a map—a new one it must be—and figure for yourself the vast region of Oklahoma which has become in a measure tributary to the Sunflower state, if you will look again and measure the wealth and area of the yet closed empire of Indian lands in the Indian Territory you cannot fail to gain at least an inkling of the prospect which spreads before this magic land of Kansas which borders the new promised land of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. That Oklahoma is utterly different from what Kansas was in the days of its settlement, that the types and characters of the new 'boomers' are infinitely more modern, more adaptable, more circumspect, I shall attempt to prove in another letter. The final allotment of Indian lands, the promised opening of the reservation to white settlers, the, as yet, unguessed possibilities of the tribal possessions of Indian Territory and north-

eastern Oklahoma, soon to be thrown open to the American people, are topics which, while demanding separate consideration, must yet be remembered as a further and final hostage to the fixed greatness of southern-central Kansas.

"To call this rapid expansion and development of the new country 'a boom' is almost a misnomer. It is a growth founded, not upon the hysterical dreams of town lot jobbers, money lenders or impractical adventurers, but upon the absolute settlement and fecundity of an incomparable farmland. The region, reaching from the northern boundaries of Texas to the southern Kansas counties and from middle New Mexico to the hills of western Arkansas, is the last, the richest and the most glorious section at the behest of the widening spread of American population. As rich as Iowa or Illinois, with a climate as equable as Texas, reeking with bitumen and building wealth, underlaid with pure water and sure of an adequate rainfall, a mystery no longer to its delving, toiling, ardent tillers, it is not difficult to forecast the golden future which lies before it."

Within the past two years the Rock Island System has brought into this rich region hundreds of carloads of emigrant property. To Caldwell, Wellington, Oklahoma City and a dozen lesser settlements between Kansas and Oklahoma, farmers, storekeepers, professional men have been swarming for a year, and continue to swarm. But the farmers outnumber the city folks, ten to one, and the boom which they have inaugurated has in it nothing of the fictitious inflations of the dreamer's Arcadia. The soil is prolific beyond the dreams of the eastern husbandman; the problems of diversified crops have been already solved by the years of blood and tears which southern Kansas has expended; the government experiment stations are looking further into the future; the adjoining Indian lands are even richer than the opened townships of Oklahoma; the neighboring tribes of civilized red men are, per capita, the richest people on the face of the earth.

Passing southwesterly through Marion, McPherson, Reno and Pratt counties, the Rock Island passes through some of the best developed, richest and most closely settled regions of the state, reaching such advanced and flourishing little cities as McPherson, Hutchinson and Pratt, and thence entering the less densely settled and as yet slightly developed counties of Kiowa, Ford, Clark, Meade and Seward, the last named being on the edge of Beaver county, Okla., once called No Man's Land, and practically an extension of the famous pasture lands of the Panhandle. In the last named, and in further western counties of Kansas, the inadequacy or uncertainty of rainfalls has prevented the swift and comely growth of the eastern and central sections of the state, but the idea that the region has no certainty of a prosperous future is erroneous.

Cattle raising in all of this territory, done mostly on a large, haphazard way by extensive operators, has always been a profitable business, but the advances made in knowledge of sod and forage crops, the introduction of a half dozen varieties of what are known as drought-resisting vegetants, have already trans-

PIN MONEY FOR THE GIRLS.

formed the character of cattle farming, made the small ranch a profitable possibility, and even, to a limited but increasing extent, materially increased the natural precipitation of moisture. The valleys and bottom lands of the Arkansas and Cimarron rivers, which here cross the line of the Rock Island, offer great areas of rich, alluvial soil in which almost anything may be successfully cultivated, but the fact is that a great percentage of the southwestern acreage of Kansas is neither a fruit nor grain country, and will require irrigation before the great moisture-needing staples can be wisely harvested. On the other hand, it has been well demonstrated during the past ten years that alfalfa and several varieties of sorghum will thrive in nearly every section, even of the semi-arid western counties, and the success which has attended the cultivation of these drought-resisting plants as crops for winter forage has, as already indicated, transformed the methods of cattle farming and made it possible for the small cattle raiser not only to compete with his old-time competitor, the big rancher, but has even given the advantage to the farmer who supplements the native pasture and wild hays with an adequate harvest of alfalfa, Kaffir corn, Jerusalem corn, Milo maize, sorghum and a few other saccharine plants which seem to take readily in the high-dry counties of the western sections of Kansas. During the drought which fell upon nearly all the middle and western states in 1901 the extraordinary value of alfalfa to the farmers of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas was perfectly illustrated. In spite of the scarcity of rain it yielded two, three, four and even five cuttings during that season, and even in the least favorable regions the wise or lucky cattle feeders and raisers who were equipped with alfalfa were enabled to tide over their herds without loss, and in many cases to come to the rescue of their less fortunate neighbors.

That the farmers of Kansas are alive to the importance of this deep rooted forage plant is evident from the fact that the annual acreage planted has increased from about 35,000 acres in 1891 to nearly 400,000 acres in 1902. Meade, Seward, Clark,

Ford and Kiowa counties in southwestern Kansas have each increased their alfalfa acreages almost 50 per cent since 1900. The saccharine and non-saccharine sorghums, for winter forage, have been correspondingly augmented, and the result is apparent in the reports of cattle breeders and feeders who claim that they can now keep three head of cattle in better condition, on the same twenty acres that was sufficient for only one under the old system of dependence upon native pasture. The long, persistently penetrating roots of the alfalfa not only seek moisture at depths varying from five to twenty feet, thus enabling the plant and foliage to resist long periods of absolute drought, but as a soil renovator and resolvent this remarkable perennial species of clover is without an equal or a rival. The best proof of its excellence is the fact that, although it was at first regarded as suited only to arid and semi-arid districts, where the better known varieties of clover could not survive, it has within the past few years not only pushed its way into the high favor of husbandmen in the eastern and rainy regions, but has almost supplanted clover in many counties where the latter is at home. In the valleys of the Arkansas, where it reaches its highest yields, an acre often yields as high as six and occasionally as high as seven tons, in a year. In all those bottom lands where moisture is accessible within a few feet of the surface, as many as five cuttings are made in one season, and even in the sandy semi-arid reaches of western counties the alfalfa fields will give never less than two goodly harvests in a year. A singular characteristic of this perennial plant is that it continues to improve in luxuriance and nourishing forage qualities with the successive seasons. The reason for this is that it not only loosens up and makes porous the land upon which it is planted, but its long roots, like so

A KANSAS ORCHARD.

GROWING FAT WITHOUT CORN.

many tiny spiral wells, fetch moisture to the surface and by the natural evaporation which follows, gradually increase the percentage of moisture suspended in the air. An elongation of the upper plant seems to accompany the delving of the roots, and one farmer, having made five cuttings in one season, avers that the average length of the plants when cut was almost three feet! Clover three feet high is certainly a marvel, but the fact remains that this apparent rankness of growth detracts not at all from the nourishment contained in alfalfa.

In the raising of sorghums, saccharine and non-saccharine, the farmers of Kansas have been encouraged to increase their activities in all sections of the state, but particularly in the semi-arid western and southwestern counties where 60 per cent of the sweet sorghum of the commonwealth is grown, and where that species of this remarkable forage plant flourishes best. In 1901 the combined acreage devoted to sorghums in Kansas was nearly 1,150,000 acres, or about as much as that devoted to all tame grasses, most of it being consumed as pasturage in the field, or cut, stacked and fed as winter forage. The astonishing strides made by Kaffir corn, as a forage crop, during the past three years, and the successful manner in which it has flourished in the western counties, have led government and state scientists to predict that it will soon attain a similar position in the sandy plateaus of the semi-arid region to that now occupied by Indian corn in lower altitudes and in the eastern and northern states.

Although it is a fact that the sweet sorghums are equally useful as forage crops, ton for ton, yet the figures of the State Agricultural Department of Kansas show that Kaffir corn (non-

NO MORTGAGE HERE.

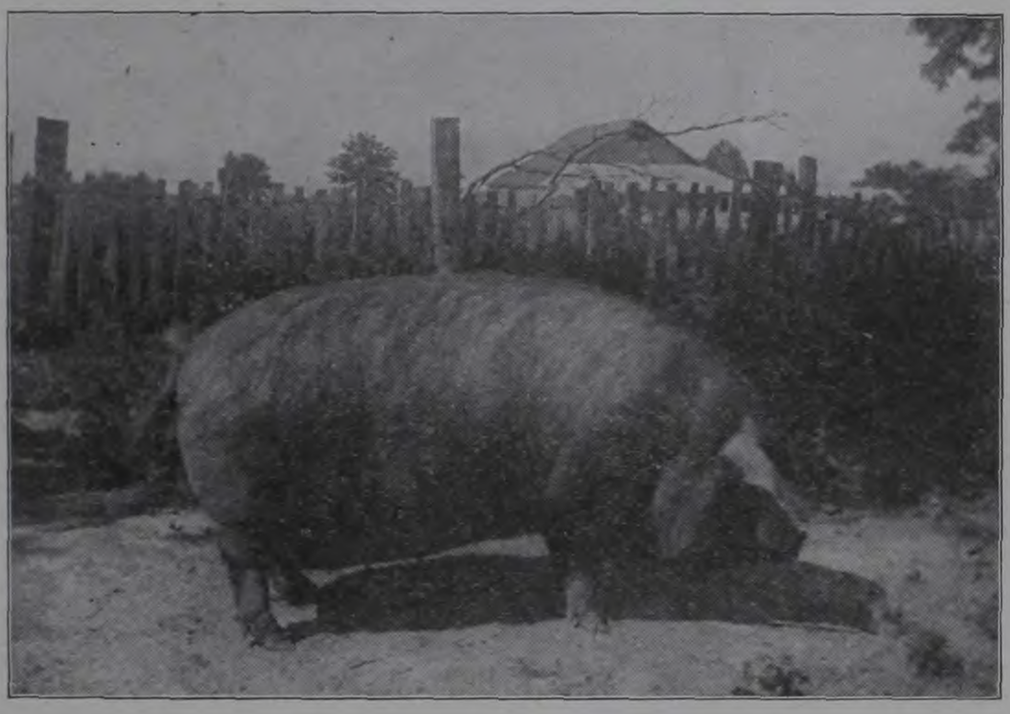
AS GOOD AS MONEY OUT AT SIX PER CENT.

saccharine) during a period of ten years has yielded an average of $9.57, compared with $5.50 for sorghum and $4.70 for Indian corn after husking. Although these figures include the whole plant in the cases of sorghum and Kaffir corn, and only the grain value of Indian corn, the balance remains strongly with Kaffir, and doubtless accounts for the fact that in the dry regions of the western half of the state, where Indian corn cannot resist recurrent droughts, the Kaffir corn is swiftly advancing to almost equal supremacy with alfalfa. Combined with the latter, and very rich in blood and flesh producing nutriment, Kaffir corn is recommended by all practical farmers, as well as by investigating scientists, to the cattle feeding and breeding farmers of southwestern and western Kansas, the Panhandle of Texas and the western regions of Oklahoma.

In the southwestern Kansas counties tributary to the Rock Island System lie some of the best and most available lands yet open to the homesteader and home buyer of small means. It is here that the poor farmer with only a team and a few utensils can, with judgment and perseverance, succeed. This is also true of the vast tracts of pasture lands that lie across Beaver county, Okla., and the Panhandle. In all the high plateaus included in that sun blessed area, wells—deep, well installed, copious wells—are a first and vital essential. A good living cannot be made from the same field crops as have been sufficient to maintain the small farmer or farming tenant in the rainy regions. While it is not a wheat country, alfalfa is being successfully raised in some sections of this territory. Kaffir corn is another crop that is being raised with success. Vegetables and garden truck have been and are being grown in the Texas Panhandle country. The letter from Mr. W. H. Bradley, of Shamrock, Wheeler county, Tex., which appears on pages 58 and 59 of this booklet, will be of interest, and it seems fair to assume that what one man has done others can do.

For the cattle raiser who knows his business and who is reinforced with a few thousand dollars to commence with there is no section of this country in which success is more certain, nor in which for every cent wisely invested, he can realize so good a profit. The absolute perfection of the climate, the absence of all those dangers and diseases which beset man and beast in the more rigorous zones of the north and east, the proximity of first-class railroad service and excellent markets, the cheapness of lands and the absolute certainty of swiftly increasing values, all conspire to make certainly prosperous the career of the live stock farmer who approaches this region properly equipped.

That the truth about these conditions is being slowly but favorably recognized is apparent from the character of improvements in towns and farms that have been recently made in southwestern Kansas, Beaver county, Okla., and the Panhandle, into



LIKES THE CLIMATE.

which we are now passing. Fenced farms are rapidly taking the place of the old, lawless, free ranges; comely and sometimes costly ranch houses and cottages have taken the place of the rambling shacks of the old time cattle barons and cow punchers; cosy towns with pretty schools and churches, neat stores and tree lined streets now dot these counties, tangible evidences of the progress and permanence of the civilization which has come upon the region since the great railroads began to obliterate the old, skeleton-strewn highways of the prairie schooner, and the Indian infested routes of the old cattle trails. The Indians have disappeared or, gathered into their own well ordered reservations, have taken to the ways of civilization; outlawry is no more; even the cowboy now lives in a house, seldom wears a pistol, sends his children to school and pays pew rent in some village church.

"CUT OUT" FOR MARKET.

The Texas Panhandle

Passing out of the southwest corner of Kansas and through the western part of Beaver county, Okla., the Rock Island traverses what is properly called the Texas Panhandle, an extent of semi-arid, high and valuable grazing land that is typical of all the altitudinous and arid or semi-arid regions of this section, whether in western Oklahoma, southwestern Kansas, southeastern Colorado, eastern New Mexico or northern Texas. What is true of this territory generally known as the Panhandle is true of all these plain regions, contiguous to the mountains where the annual rainfall is less than the best requirements of eastern farming methods, and where the splendid climate and the natural endowments of the unwatered plains are the best and most certain recommendations to the cattleman, large or small, who has the necessary means to start properly.

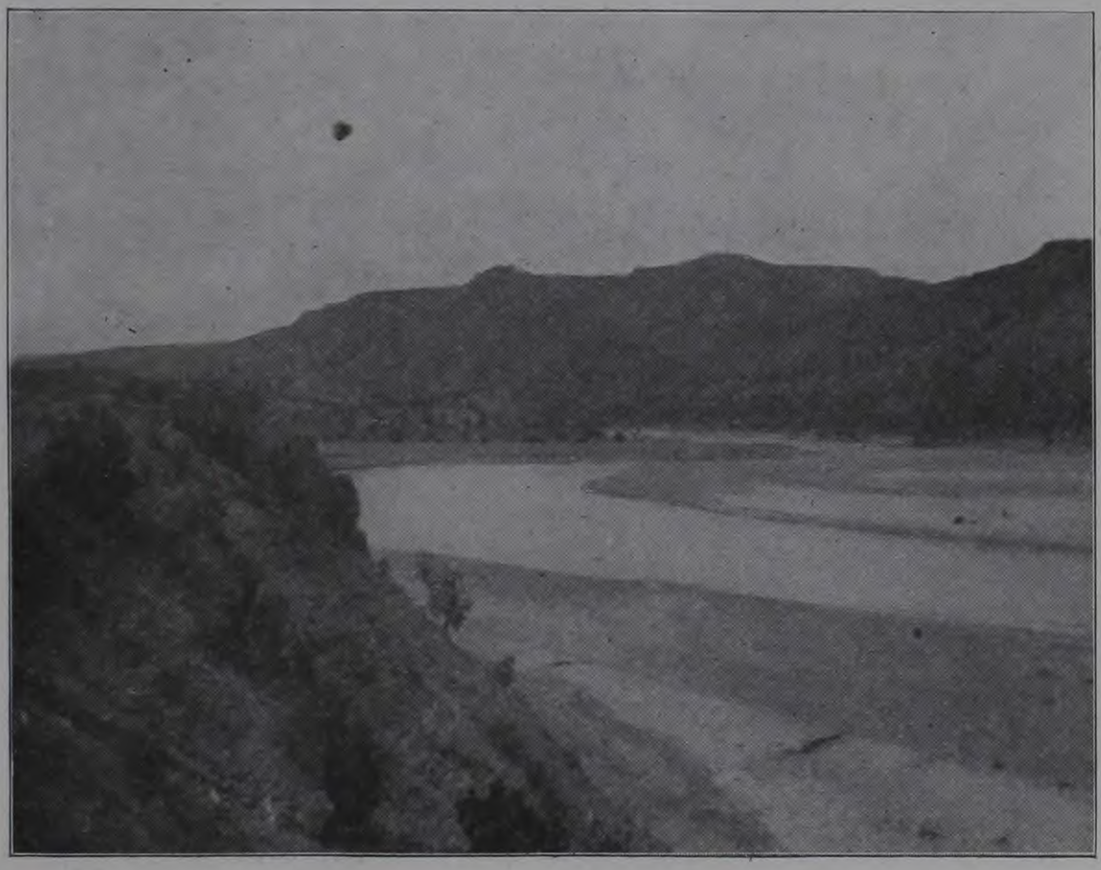
For a fair, honest and expert expression of the actual conditions to be confronted in this region the following, written by Mr. George Findlay, is frankly typical of the whole region outlined. Says Mr. Findlay:

"The land lying in the extreme northwest corner of the Panhandle of Texas comprises approximately the following proportions of the counties named. Dallam, two-thirds; Hartley, one-half; Oldham, five-eighths; Deaf Smith, one-half; Parmer, nearly the whole; Castro, one-seventh; Bailey, one-fifth; Lamb, one-half, and Hockley, one-fifth. Dallam county lies thirty-four and one-half miles south of the corner of the states of Kansas, New Mexico and Colorado, and the other counties named lie south of Dallam, being the western tier of counties in the Panhandle, and, excepting Castro, Lamb and Hockley, which are in the second tier of counties on the west side of the Panhandle, about the line between Texas and New Mexico.

"The soil of the land lying north of the valley of the Canadian river, which crosses the tract from west to east in Oldham county, varies from chocolate loam to chocolate and clayey loam, red sandy loam, red and light sandy loam, and red sandy clayey loam; the soil of the Canadian valley comprises red clayey and sandy loam, red and light sandy loam, deep red clayey and sandy loam, rich red loam and chocolate loam, and south of the Canadian valley, beginning at the brakes of the Llano Estacado or Staked Plain, and stretching south about 100 miles to the end of this tract the soil is of a rich red loam, rich red clayey loam, deep rich red clayey loam, red clayey loam, red sandy and black sandy, and chocolate loam and light sandy loam. These soils are of most excellent quality, and the materials of which they are composed are the sediments of a great lake, which is believed to have existed here in late tertiary times. The sub-soils are practically of the same porous materials as the soil itself, and under these lies an impervious bed of clay.

"North of the Canadian valley it may be described as rolling, gently rolling, high rolling and gently undulating; the Canadian valley as rolling, gently rolling, broken, an occasional rocky bluff, pebble knoll and gravel ridge, and south of the Canadian valley it is remarkable for its uniformly rolling, gently rolling, undulating or gently undulating character.

"The north boundary line of the Llano Estacado or Staked Plain crosses this tract in Deaf Smith and Oldham counties, and is marked by a ledge of precipitous rocky bluffs varying in height from 30 to 200 feet and often of much greater elevation above the plain below, and at a distance has the appearance of a range of flat topped mountains. The territory south of this precipitous



PLENTY OF WATER.

boundary is an elevated plateau tha; would seem to have been forced up from the surrounding plain by some great convulsion of nature.

"The altitude above sea level in Dallam county at the north end of the tract is a little over 4,700 feet (Denver, Colo., is 5,170 feet); at the Canadian river, in Oldham county, between 3,200 and 3,300 feet; at north edge of the Staked Plain in Deaf Smith county, probably about 3,800 feet, and from this point to the south end of the tract in Hockley county there is a gradual decline to about 2,000 feet.

"The Staked Plain is dotted every few miles with circular depressions or lake basins, sometimes several miles in circumference, which after heavy rainfalls contain large quantities of water.

"The drainage is toward the east, and every five to fifteen miles a grassy ravine or 'draw' traverses this land, sometimes wide and deep, and sometimes narrow and shallow.

A BASIN IN THE GRAZING COUNTRY.

"The large proportion of crisp, bright, bracing, sunshiny days makes it a salubrious and delightful climate to live in. Outdoor work can be carried on here almost every day in the year, sunstrokes are unknown, the nights are always cool, and this section is destined to become the abiding place of a vigorous, healthy, hardy race of people; and a climate that conduces to that condition in the human race will also conduce to a good healthy condition of all the domestic animals.

"The wealth of this tract in its natural state lies in the abundant supply of its excellent grasses. There is probably nowhere else such a fine sward of valuable grasses as is found here.

"First of these in importance, quantity and universality stands the true buffalo grass, unsurpassed for grazing purposes, which as a winter forage is without an equal, and is greatly relished by all grazing animals. It is of a low growth, rarely more than five or six inches high, and it cures during the dry season on its roots into perfect hay, which recent tests at the experiment station at Manhattan, Kan., show to be considerably superior to Kentucky blue grass and very much better than timothy.

"Next probably comes the curly mesquite, which is also very abundant on these plains, and in the habit of growth closely resembles the true buffalo grass; matures on its roots and affords excellent pasturage for all kinds of stock in the fall and winter. No grass stands drought better than this; at such times it dries up and appears dead, but in a few hours after a warm rain it becomes green to the ends of the smallest branches.

"The different varieties of grama grass are also very abundant here and make excellent pasturage. The blue and white grama are unsurpassed for grazing purposes, and no other grass better withstands the trampling of the stock, and they also cure in the turf into splendid hay. Other valuable species of grass abound here, among which may be mentioned the blue stem and bunch and sedge grasses (which are most in evidence where there is a large proportion of sand in the soil) and many others which afford excellent grazing and are more or less mixed with those already mentioned.

"It is our firm conviction that no country under the sun is better adapted than this is to the stock farmer. This conviction is grounded on fifteen years' experience in raising cattle on it The present owners came into possession of it before any wells had been bored or fences built or improvement of any kind made upon it. Now there are over 300 wells, about 1,500 miles of splendid barbed wire fences, eight division headquarters buildings, and numerous line riders and windmill greasers' camps on it, besides general headquarters, two town sites, several farms and other improvements, and everything necessary for the proper care of the immense cattle herds now occupying it.

"The female foundation stocks of the present herd were purchased from about central Texas, and were of the class common to that country at that time; with these females were put fine bulls from the northern states, and for many years past nothing but pure bred bulls have been purchased for this purpose, the old inferior animals being annually weeded out.

"The breeds in use are the Aberdeen-Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn, and they have all done well here. Probably a good idea of the improvement wrought in this herd may be derived from the statement of the fact that in 1887 the aged steers (three and four years old) netted between $16 and $17 in Chicago, and steers two years of age have been netting in recent years $30 on the ranch. It is generally conceded that in cattle raising in the southwest a larger percentage of calves may be expected than in the northwest, and that on the ranges of the northwest cattle at maturity may have greater weight than they would have farther south, but

here there is, because of its southerly latitude, the condition favorable to large calf crops, and because of its high altitude the condition favorable to greater weight, so that both of these favoring conditions are combined here in probably a greater degree than at any intermediate point.

"While this section is now given up chiefly to breeding stock, it is very likely soon to become a good feeding country as well. We do not advertise it as farming land, but there have been produced for several years past excellent crops, such as sorghum, millet, alfalfa, Kaffir corn, Milo maize, Jerusalem corn, Johnson grass, etc. Kaffir corn may be depended upon to produce thirty to forty bushels per acre, and some Indian corn has produced from twenty-five to thirty-five bushels per acre.

"A field of sorghum on the high table land near the headquarters of this ranch at Channing, in Hartley county, produced, in 1900, 7,030 pounds to the acre, 'as pretty feed as anyone ever saw,' and other crops were about equally good. All this without irrigation.

"It must be remembered, too, that nearly all these farming experiments are conducted on cattle ranches in a rather desultory sort of way, the farm getting attention, as a general thing, only when the ranch work proper did not demand it. With a better knowledge of farming operations and more familiarity with the most suitable methods and times of plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting and care for the crops which time will give, it is reasonable to expect even much better results.

"Splendid garden truck is raised here. Vegetables, such as cabbage, beets, onions, turnips, potatoes and melons of all kinds, grow in great abundance. The melons are quite as good as the Vernon or Rocky Ford melons.

"In view of all these facts we firmly believe that for those parties who have energy and means enough to engage in stock farming on a ranch of 2,000 acres or more, and who are seeking a new and desirable location where they can follow this vocation profitably, no portion of the United States offers greater inducements than this. It is equally well adapted to horses, sheep and all other domestic animals, as it is to cattle. It is undoubtedly a fact that the stock farmer in this section who has properly attended to his business of stock raising, with farming as an auxiliary, has made more money for the capital invested and the labor expended than the farmer in any other part of the United States.

New Mexico

The Rock Island, passing thus through a region of Texas typical of all the great expanses of southwestern cattle lands, advances into New Mexico en route to El Paso, Tex., through a region which, by the character of its soil and climate, by the peculiar topography of the region and by the exigencies of a half century's experiment and performance, is essentially the home of irrigation. Although the Pecos valley's best section of

development is not directly upon the Rock Island lines, a truthful exploitation of what has been and can be done in that valley will apply with equal certainty to all the irrigable lands of New Mexico, and in a special sense to the valley of the Rio Grande above and below El Paso, where some of the most notable successes of modern husbandry are due to irrigation and the scientific administering of conditions that appeal with special force to the small farmer and the horticulturist.

If the cattle raising possibilities of the range countries just described must appeal particularly to the newcomer of considerable means, so the irrigation regions of New Mexico and Texas seem set apart by nature and necessity with special reference to the potentialities of the emigrant of slender resources. As one penetrates further into New Mexico toward the western corner of

A BUSY DAY AT EL RENO.

Texas the harsh winter conditions, described at their worst by the term "norther," grow softer and gradually disappear until in the region of the Pecos river and southward to the Rio Grande, there are no winters worthy of the name, and the ideal permanence of balmy atmospheres and almost perpetual sunshine hails man and beast to the pleasant business of continuous outdoor husbandry.

The recent advent of the Rock Island System into the upper counties of New Mexico bordering upon the famous Pecos river promises to give quick and permanent vantage to those who seek there the profitable delights of farming, large or small, by irrigation. In the older settlements of Chaves and Eddy counties, further south, great work has been already done, examples of the opportunities now ripe upon the Rock Island.

Without any particular reference to the almost perfect climatic advantages, the romantic surroundings, the mountain influence, the good fishing and hunting and the other physical and esthetic excellences of the Pecos and Rio Grande valleys, they may be safely taken as indications of what the whole Territory of New Mexico will do one of these fine days when the business of systematic irrigation has come to be an exact and essential scientific performance. Undoubtedly, these remarkable regions first attracted the attention of Americans by reason of their peculiarly balmy and invigorating climate. The first considerable improvement of soil was done in a small way by people not familiar with agricultural pursuits. The results astonished them and forced upon them an occupation which proved to be as wealth producing as it was health giving. Until ten years ago nobody knew that the Pecos valley would produce the finest fruit possible, immune from the attacks of insects and other horticultural pests, and that its wide reaches of decomposed sandstone and alluvial, once watered, would yield the most perfect grapes, the finest fodder crops and the richest pastures imaginable.

To-day there is a single apple orchard in this valley which covers 1,000 acres. It is, perhaps, the most successful, most profitable and most perfect apple orchard in the world. The irrigating enterprises in this section expanded and flourished so that the region has come to be, par excellence, one of the model irrigation districts of this country. Now the alfalfa raised in the valley is cut as many as *five times* in a single season. The annual crops of asparagus, Spanish onions, grapes and other tropical fruits and vegetables are so large, so certain and so far ahead of similar products of many other regions in point of time, that the residents of the Pecos river country in New Mexico are in many instances averaging $3,000 per year profit on *less than* sixty acres of ground.

A GOOD HERD.

A PROFITABLE INDUSTRY—ANGORA GOATS.

Along the Pecos valley lines and their extensions from Pecos, Tex., on the south to Woodward, Okla., on the north, numerous prosperous communities have grown up, their characters largely governed by the local conditions of the country surrounding them. From Woodward southwest across the Panhandle to the boundary line between Texas and New Mexico, the country until recently has been almost exclusively a cattle raising district, and the towns along that portion are supported by the stock industry. The same conditions rule more or less across the boundary into New Mexico except Portales, which is the center of an agricultural region peculiar to itself. But the Pecos valley proper, to the Texas-New Mexico border, is a distinctively irrigated section, where fruits, vegetables, fodder crops and fine cattle flourish beyond the hopes of less favored places.

Amarillo, Tex., is one of the westernmost stations of the Choctaw road, and therefore an important point in the potential activities of the Rock Island System. From Dalhart, northwest of Amarillo, the Rock Island passes into New Mexico at Laguna, almost due east of Las Vegas, maintaining a generally southwestern direction to Santa Rosa, where it crosses the Pecos river in a direct route toward El Paso.

The Rio Grande Valley and the Trans-Pecos Country

For a city of less than 20,000 population, El Paso, Tex., is one of the most remarkable manufacturing communities in this country. Ranking with Waco, Paris and many of the bigger towns of the state, though the federal census of 1900 denies its claims to a population greater than 20,000, El Paso contrives to maintain more flourishing small factories, more thriving shops, more first-class stores, warehouses and mills than any city of its size in Texas. It is also the fifth port of entry of the United States and the chief artery of international traffic, passenger and freight, between the United States and Old Mexico. A health resort of world wide note, one of the most picturesque and cosmopolitan places in America, it is also thoroughly American, intensely progressive and the center of a region in which scientific agricul-

WHERE

ture by irrigation, and a vast natural wealth of coal, building and construction deposits, insure a future prosperity that is already evidenced by the achievements of the city and its people.

Across the Rio Grande, and connected with El Paso by street car and fine bridges, lies El Ciudad Juarez (the city of Juarez), a perfect type of the modern Mexican city, which has not, and never will, lose the atmosphere and the characteristics of the Latin race which founded it and still flourishes in its quaint streets and houses. Here, within hailing distance of a typically American-Texas city, lies the land of Manana, the home of the alcalde and the bull fighting bravo of old Castile.

In this valley the Spanish missionaries of more than a century ago first installed a system of irrigation, crude, primitive and at the cost of great labor, but quickly demonstrative of the inexhaustible richness of the soil when watered. In those old days a dozen varieties of Spanish grapes and vegetables were

N IS KING.

introduced into this section of Texas, and to this day thrive with even greater prodigality under the improved American methods of irrigation. The United States census report, just issued, gives the following brief but accurate statement of the extent and success of artificial moisture supply in the Texas valleys of the Rio Grande, Pecos and other rivers running through territory tributary to the Rock Island in that state:

"Texas, with its vast area and greatly diversified topography and climate, contains areas well adapted to the successful cultivation of a wide variety of agricultural products. As the larger part of the state belongs to the humid region, irrigation has never been a prominent factor in agricultural development.

"The arid region may be described as belonging to the drainage basin of the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers, and includes the counties of Pecos, Reeves, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster and Ward. The elevation of this portion of the state varies

from 2,000 to 6,000 feet, and the annual precipitation ranges from eight to seventeen inches. The soil, particularly in the valley of the Rio Grande, is of exceeding fertility when sufficiently watered, and is adapted to the cultivation of almost all the agricultural products of the temperate and sub-tropical climates. In this valley irrigation is of ancient origin, and on many of the canals the methods of irrigating have undergone little change in the last two centuries. The irrigation of general crops in Texas is confined largely to the region above described.

"In 1899 the number of irrigators in arid Texas was 429, or 32.4 per cent of all; the ditches had a length of 212 miles, or 47.1 per cent of the total length, and the cost of construction was $407,635, or 39.7 per cent of the total cost of all the systems of the state. El Paso county, with six large canals having a total length of ninety-two miles, leads all others in the number of irrigators and in the mileage of ditches.

"At El Paso, after passing through a deep canyon in the Franklin range, the Rio Grande flows out upon a broad valley which has a length of sixty miles and a general elevation of 4,000 feet. The bed of the river at this point is unstable and is often changed several miles during a flood. The banks are generally low, affording an excellent opportunity for the intake of gravity ditches. Sixty miles below El Paso the valley of the Rio Grande suddenly contracts where the river passes through the Whitman mountains. From this point down to Del Rio, a distance of 400 miles, its course is through canyons in a region of wild and picturesque scenery and no opportunities are presented for irrigation, except at one point in Presidio county, near Fort Leaton, where it flows out upon a narrow valley for about twenty-five miles. In this valley it receives from Mexico the waters of an important tributary—the Concho. At Del Rio and fifty miles

HELPING GATHER THE CROP.

below, near Eagle Pass, the Rio Grande supplies water for several canals. A number of pumping stations are used in the vicinity of Laredo, Carrizoo, Rio Grande, Hidalgo and Brownsville.

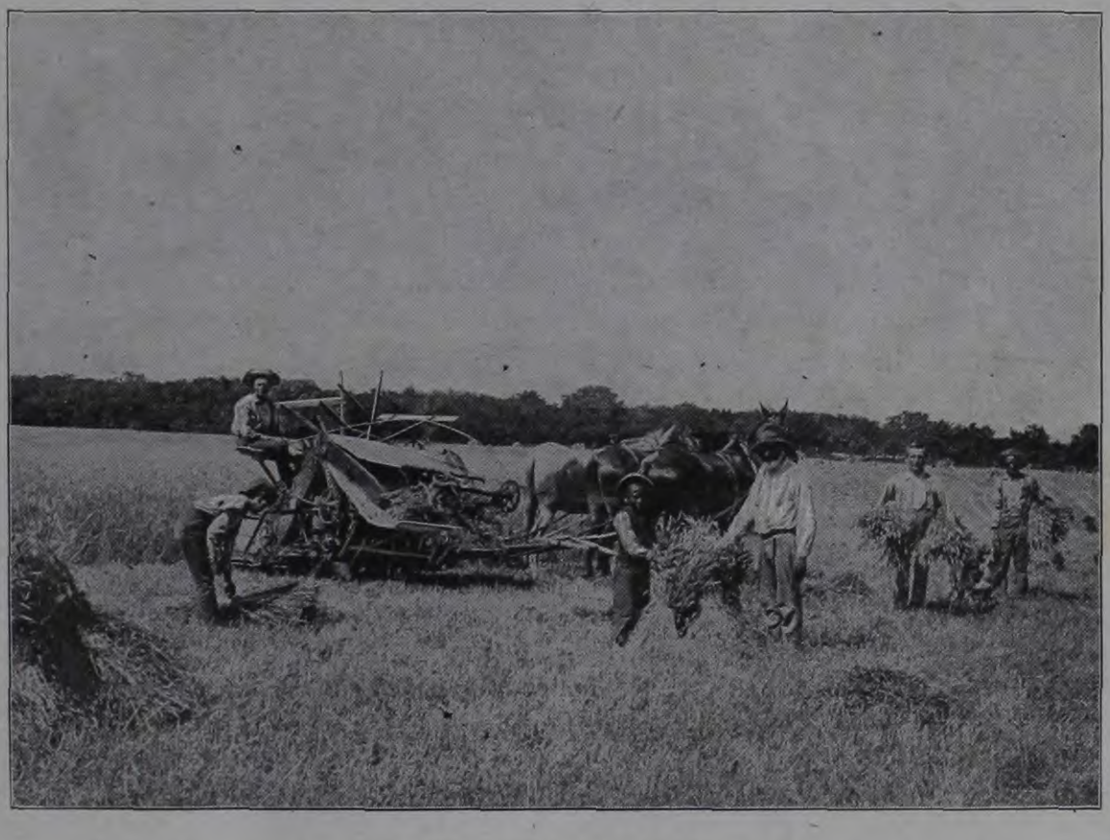
"A reservoir site has been surveyed and its capacity is claimed to be sufficient to irrigate all the arable land for forty miles below El Paso on both sides of the river. The Pecos river, flowing through arid and semi-arid Texas, irrigates considerable areas in the counties of Reeves, Ward and Pecos. The canals are of great length and designed to irrigate large areas. The irrigated acreage under ditches is about 70,000, and the irrigation systems have a total length of 104 miles and cost $231,800.

"There are a number of irrigation systems in the valleys of the Colorado and Brazos rivers, several of considerable importance, used in the cultivation of forage crops, grain, orchard and small fruits and truck. Some of the most important canals are at Menardville and San Angelo. During the census year in Tom Green and Menard counties there were 157 irrigators, operating seventeen plants, costing $84,325, having a length of 69.9 miles, and irrigating 7,563 acres.

"In 1889 there were 623 irrigators in the state, and in 1899, 1,325, an increase of 112.7 per cent. Within the same period, the number of irrigated acres increased from 18,241 to 49,652, or 172.2 per cent. Not including the area irrigated in rice, the increase in irrigated acreage in the state is 69.7 per cent.

"The total value of all crops produced on irrigated land in 1899 was $539,212, divided as follows: Rice, $224,315; hay and forage, $101,569; cereals, $64,107; vegetables, $99,240; orchard fruits, $17,175; small fruits, $1,134; all other crops, $31,672."

Small farms can be bought in the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys, close to the railroads, for from $10 to $30 per acre, with water rights. Some alkaline lands that have



RIPE FOR THE HARVEST.

PEACHES—TWO KINDS.

been bought as low as $1 an acre within the past year have proved extremely valuable for the growing of asparagus, salt being a necessary ingredient in soils favorable to this vegetable. During the spring of 1902 hundreds of boxes of the most tender and perfect asparagus were marketed in Kansas City in early March. Potatoes, cabbage, beets, turnips, peppers, onions, tomatoes and a dozen other vegetables thrive in the irrigated fields with extraordinary success, maintaining their flavors far better than similar growths in California, and being remarkably tender and easily handled without loss. A few farmers, who have put tracts as large as twenty acres in celery alone, have realized as much as $5,000 in a single season. A single acre put to onions has yielded over 40,000 pounds in one season, and lettuce, spinach, radishes and sweet potatoes find ready sale at high prices in the towns and cities which have recently been brought into quick touch by the railroads.

The narrow valley of the Pecos river between latitude 31° and 32° in Texas is partly under irrigation, and grows alfalfa, grains, grasses and fruits, especially foreign grapes, to great perfection and profit. A vineyard at Barstow, of forty acres in extent, has produced very fine crops for several years, having never suffered from attack of phylloxera.

The foreign vines require a covering (it is usually of soil) to protect them through the winter.

The bottom lands of the Rio Grande on the Texas side from El Paso to some fifty miles below to Fort Hancock on the Southern Pacific railway are similar to the Pecos City and Barstow region, with climate milder and more arid, and about the same products are raised, which find a market in El Paso and the cities of eastern Texas or the north.

This section occupies all that extensive triangle lying between the Pecos and Rio Grande south of New Mexico, excepting the mesa lands in Jeff Davis, Brewster and El Paso counties, and the mountains extending above them.

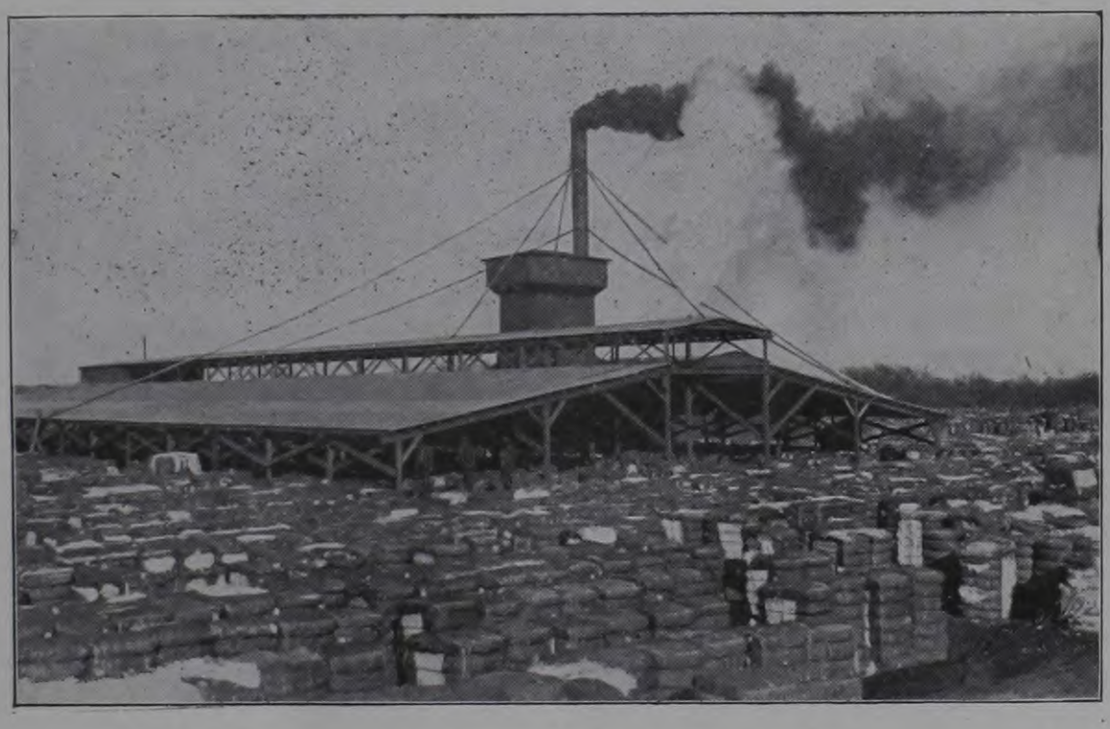
The arid region is excessively dry and hot, yet there is a short, nutritious grass in nearly all parts of it, upon which numerous deer and antelope feed. Sometimes as many as 100 in a band are seen.

The altitude varies from 2,000 feet on the lower Pecos to 5,000 in the central and northern parts. The valleys and low mountain ranges are generally waterless to such an extent that stock water cannot be obtained except in a few favored localities, and these are the seats of the few ranches of this region. Here are the only waste lands of any extent in the state.

Texas' Rainfall Region

Upon nearly 80 per cent of the total area of Texas—that is, from the edge of the Chocolate Plains which lie north and south about parallel with the arid and semi-arid tracts already described—the annual precipitation of moisture, beginning with about twenty-eight inches, increases gradually with the descent towards sea level to a maximum of sixty inches in the great coastal plains that lie adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico, from the delta of the Rio Grande on the south to the mouth of the Sabine river at Port Arthur.

The Lone Star state is bigger than the British Islands, Greece, Denmark, Turkey in Asia, Holland and Switzerland combined; its agricultural endowments are ten times greater than the total areas of those countries; its native mineral and fuel wealth is equal to the whole of Europe's put together, excepting Russia, and, while it is capable of sustaining a population of more than 90,000,000, there are not more than 3,100,000 upon its 265,780



AN OVERFLOWING CROP.

LABOR HAS ITS REWARD.

square miles of "room." It has over 400 miles of coast line, and at Galveston a deep water harbor great and safe enough to ride the anchored navies of the world. From Texarkana to El Paso, as the crow flies, is further than from Chicago to the ocean, and the land that lies between is not surpassed in natural endowments in the world. Every flower, fruit, and cereal known to the temperate and tropic latitudes will flourish upon the vast bosom of this wondrous state. Already, with its agricultural development at a point less than 20 per cent of its possibilities, Texas leads the Union in the number and value of its herds of meat cattle, sheep, hogs, horses and mules. It is fourth in the list of wheat producing states, with an average annual crop for the past four years valued at $15,000,000 per year; it gives the world nearly $40,000,000 worth of corn in a year and $60,000,000 worth of cotton products, and its holdings of live stock are assessed at $100,000,000.

Fort Worth

Here the Rock Island system, making its north and south entry from Indian Territory and Oklahoma, makes quick and convenient connection with a dozen radiating lines that traverse the region in every direction. Located in the world famed black waxy belt, perhaps the richest soil for all purposes ever turned by a plow, Fort Worth and Dallas, in the north-central counties of the state and but an hour apart, are destined to rapidly increase their established prestige as the inland metropoles of Texas.

A cursory, but authentic, study of the evolution of Texas' cattle industry leads logically as well as conveniently to a consideration of the small but astonishing city of Fort Worth, the northern gateway of Texas, the "Little Giant" of its cities, the focal point of fourteen lines of railroad, the busiest manufacturing community of its size west of the Mississippi river, and one of the comeliest places of any size in America. The cattle question leads to Fort Worth because, already the emporium

for live stock, it is now in the act of making its bow as the biggest meat packing center in the world, after Chicago.

Already the gigantic plants of the Armour and Swift companies have been installed in Fort Worth, and a tributary population of 20,000 engaged in the big factories and allied branches of trade will be added to the 40,000 residents of the city. The estimated cost of the two plants is $5,000,000. Any business man can figure for himself the volume of business that will attend to the operation of so vast an enterprise, and conjecture if he will the accompanying access of trade and activity that must occupy the capital and energy of the augmented community. It will bring into play a hundred shops, stores and small crafts; it will mean more schools, more streets, more civic improvements, more homes, more everything for the city of Fort Worth.

But for the cattle farmers of Texas generally it will mean yet more: The economy of freights, the diminution of shrinkage, the minimizing of efforts, the certainty of stable markets, the betterment of transportation facilities, the enhancement of profits and therefore of general prosperity. This coming of the great factory to the very doors of the great producer is one of the signs of the times. It is an evidence of the constantly increasing necessity for economy. It is a development of the same evolution which puts the "fence farmer" in the place of the cattle rover; it is typical of that tendency which will soon bring other vast factory activities from the north and east into the oil regions of Texas, where fuel is cheapest and most plentiful; it is typical of that economic influence which must speedily establish cotton factories in the finest cotton producing territory in the world; it is symbolic of the whole trend of concentrated energy and coherent effort which are making for the swift development of the whole southwest.

Irrigation, intensive farming, cheap fuel, alternating crops, tree planting, cattle feeding, adjacent markets, convenient and unlimited deep water harbors—these are the signs manual of

EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL.

Texas' mounting prosperity, and they are crowding upon the state so swiftly and so irresistibly that it would seem kind destiny were emulous of bounteous nature to make Texas the wonder and the envy of the whole modern world.

Although the urban and rural population of the region about Fort Worth, Dallas and Gainesville and the north-central counties of Texas is the densest and probably the most prosperous of the state, there are yet great tracts of excellent farming lands that can be bought at a far less cost than similar holdings in the north and east.

The extent of trade done by the jobbers and manufacturers of Fort Worth and Dallas is greater in the adjoining Chickasaw Nation of Indian Territory and in the Oklahoma counties of Caddo, Greer, Kiowa, Comanche and Washita than that of any other distributing centers, not excepting Kansas City, or Chicago itself. The success of the first year's crops in this, the latest Mecca for the homestead boomer, has proved that these newest and most southern counties of Oklahoma are equal if not superior to the older counties that have been opened at intervals during the twelve years previous to 1902.

OKLAHOMA

The New Country

What is locally called the "New Country," although the whole territory is scarce older than a decade, lies in the southwest corner of the nearly square parallelogram which comprises Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The Rock Island System, passing north and south along its main line between Wichita and Fort Worth, passes almost upon the boundary line between the Chickasaw Nation and Comanche and Caddo counties of Oklahoma. From Chickasha, near the banks of the Washita river, the Rock Island extends westward through Caddo, Kiowa and Greer counties to Mangum, the westernmost town of the "New Country." From Anadarko, upon this branch, a well equipped spur runs southwardly through Caddo and Comanche counties to Lawton, one of the first, as it is now one of the finest, towns of the territory of Oklahoma. Including the Choctaw Route, which crosses the main line of the Rock Island at El Reno, the Rock Island System is easily the most comprehensive and effective now in operation in this whole region. The settlers that have come into this region since 1901 took the same chances that their contemporaries of the older sections have been taking for a dozen years. The same risks that the Oklahomans ran in Pond Creek, Guthrie, Oklahoma City, Norman, Purcell, El Reno, Kingfisher, Enid and the ten-year-old towns of the territory, they are now running in Lawton, Anadarko, Hobart, Granite, Mangum and a half dozen new-born towns which have come into lusty life since the Rock Island gave them quickening transportation through the year-old counties of the south. They won in the first instance and they will win again.

There are more than 80,000 people already settled in the reservations opened in August, 1901. Their wealth, like that of

their neighbors to the north, will spring from the ground within two years. The influx of determined and patient boomers will be at flood tide till the last vestige of free land is taken, till the last malcontent has relinquished, till the towns are builded and the farms are at the zenith of production. It requires no clairvoyancy to foretell that the history of the new is to be a repetition of the history of "old" Oklahoma. Oklahoma City would be an ornament and a profit to the proud commonwealth of Illinois for all its noble history of the century's progress. The cities built in the corn fields of August, 1901, will rival, perhaps surpass it.

Lawton, in Comanche county, the premier city of the region, is already taking on a metropolitan aspect. It numbers over 4,000 population, buildings of brick and stone are being raised as fast as the congested railroad can hurry material to the town.

A PRIZE MELON CROP.

It has electric and ice plants, saw mills, flour mills, and even a cotton compress, built against the certain development of that industry, is already in process of construction. Anadarko, which was an Indian trading post more than thirty years ago, sprung into life in August, 1901, in the middle of a deserted corn field. It lies nestling in the bended arm of the pretty Washita river. More than 3,000 newcomers, all white men of means, and their families, have cast their lot with the town. Twenty brick buildings are rising beside the wide, straight streets; the canvas covered stores, which survived if they did not defy the winter, are yielding to pretty frame structures; an ice plant and a municipal electric light and power house will be ready by May, and every train brings new recruits to the smart looking, quick stepping little community.

Hobart, in Kiowa, is racing bravely to equal and surpass her more famous neighbors in Kiowa and Comanche, and Granite and Mangum at the western edge of the new country, boomed by the newly extended Rock Island and rising on the crest of the tidal wave of immigration, are engaged in a rivalry which hints at the dignified achievements of two manufacturing centers. For rich oil fields have been recently developed almost in the streets

GADDO COUNTY TURNIPS.

of Granite, and the land about Mangum is known to be underlaid with coal and gas. The farms intetlying the Indian Territory line on the east and Mangum on the west were greening with their cultivated verdure within a week after the first rain, and inevitably yield a profitable abundance of corn, fodder and other sod crops, and the wheat and cotton industries will gain a foothold that cannot fail to equal in results the cotton and cereal yields of older Oklahoma and the Indian domains to the east.

The central counties of Oklahoma, viz., Grant, Kay, Woods, Garfield, Noble, Pawnee, Blaine, Kingfisher, Logan, Payne, Canadian, Oklahoma, Lincoln, Cleveland and Pottawattomie, are not only the most populous, the best developed and possessed of a most remarkable railway equipment, but they are popularly and probably correctly regarded as the garden section of the state. It is in this wide central belt of the territory that the versatility of the soil and the climatic advantages have been "worked" to the highest perfection by energetic settlers. Here, too, have been built the finest towns, equal in beauty, in volume of business and in modern improvements to any similar group of cities in the United States.

In this whole region wheat, the leading field crop of Oklahoma, is king, and the total bulk of the great profits realized within the past five years from this cereal have come from the small farms, though there are many fields ranging in size from 1,000 to 4,000 acres. It is not an exaggeration to say that this portion of Oklahoma contains the ideal wheat lands of America, and, though the total yield has not yet begun to equal that of areas of like size in central Kansas, it is certain that, field for field, as planted, no section of America can show superior or more profitable results. A good and wise reason for the com-

paratively limited cultivation of wheat in this portion of Oklahoma lies in the fact that the farmers there have discovered the ease and advantage of diversifying their crops, a feature of modern scientific farming which, by the way, is impossible in the north and east.

In a country which will produce wheat, cotton, corn and oats almost side by side and with equal fecundity it is easy to understand the wisdom of diversification, and, with the aid and instruction of the federal experiment stations and the agricultural colleges, the Oklahoma farmer has long since learned to prize the advice, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." With the exception of blue grass, which does not flourish naturally in any part of Oklahoma, there is no form or kind of tillable vegetation that will not yield handsomely in this region except essentially tropical fruits which require great humidity and torrid seasons.

One of the singular practices which obtain in this region is that of pasturing live stock on the wheat during the dry days of winter. Northern farmers who are in the habit of feeding away in the frigid months all the fodder crops of the previous summer will appreciate the advantage of a country in which so profuse a winter pasture can be had without injury to the wheat. The percentage of dry days in winter in Oklahoma is so great and the nature of the soil is such that an enormous saving in feed is made by this practice, and only during wet spells, when the cattle would injure the wheat fields, is it necessary to take them off the wheat.

Although corn will grow in almost every part of Oklahoma, Pottawattomie, Payne, Pawnee, Lincoln, Cleveland and Okla-

PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS.

ON THE RANGE.

homa counties have thus far excelled the others in their yields of this staple. During the past year, however, the southwestern counties of Greer, Kiowa, Washita, Caddo and Comanche, forming a district which was once supposed to be unfavorable to the Indian grain, have astonished all by making the greatest gains of the whole territory in their corn yield. As a matter of unexploited fact, it should be said here that these new counties in the reservations thrown open to white settlers in the summer of 1901 have surprised both scientists and farming settlers with the extraordinary and unexpected volume of rain and snow which fell during the two seasons of farming which they have known. Whether these favorable conditions are to continue and the "New Country" is to be favored with a much greater annual precipitation than similarly placed western sections, such as Beaver, Woodward, Day and Roger Mills counties, is as yet uncertain, but observation by scientific experts has led to a well founded belief that the whole region of Oklahoma lying between the Red and the Canadian rivers is to be permanently blessed with an annual rainfall that is, for such altitudes and latitudes, phenomenal.

For the poor man, the man with small holdings of land and a large family, cotton not only continues to be a favorite crop in Oklahoma, but the acreage planted is increasing annually. There are many good reasons for this. Cotton is a cash crop; it is less costly, both in the matter of raising and harvesting, than either wheat or corn; an ordinary spell of dry weather will not harm it; the season for picking is so long that the average family of healthy Oklahoma boys and girls can gather it all without hiring outside help; and, lastly, because the by-products of cotton are coming to have almost as great value and an even greater demand than the fleecy fabric itself.

The fruits of Oklahoma are, however, its chief and most pardonable boast. It is five years since the older counties passed

THE GOLDEN HARVEST.

what might be called the "novice attitude" towards peach, apple and small fruit raising; but not till within the past twelve months. or in 1902, have the astounding possibilities of the territory in the direction of fruit culture been fully demonstrated. It has long been believed that the fruits of the north temperate and middle temperate states excelled in flavor, although they fell below their southern relatives in size. In spite of the extraordinary size of irrigated fruits, it is probably true that they have not the same exquisite and indescribable bouquet that is found in fruit that is watered by rain. The peaches, apples, berries and grapes of Oklahoma have fooled all the old fashioned experts by excelling both in size and flavor, even as, from the first, they surpassed all others in texture, soundness and wealth of color. In the neighborhood of El Reno, Oklahoma City, Kingfisher, Enid, Guthrie and other towns about which fine orchards are now in full bearing peaches ten and even twelve inches in circumference and of surpassing flavor are the rule and not the exception. The orchardists who gather sufficient crops ship some of their yields to distant markets, obtaining fancy prices for them, but thus far the local demand, even at prices far in excess of fruit brought from other states, has been much greater than the supply.

Horticulturists have been astonished to note that apples of different varieties, supposed to be individually native to widely differing soils and climates, prosper as to size and healthiness in Oklahoma without sacrificing one jot of their own peculiar flavor. While this continues to be somewhat of a mystery to connoisseurs, the practical orchardists of Oklahoma are continually planting fruit trees, supplementing the business with extended berry patches, truck gardens and vineyards. When it is remembered that most of the fruit trees of Oklahoma have been planted, raised and picked by amateurs, or rather by persons wholly ignorant of fruit culture and inexperienced in that branch of husbandry, it is cause for great surprise that their success has been so great. But it is also an argument and a plea to experienced fruit growers to bring to Oklahoma their knowledge and skill, to the end that they may flourish and wax rich at an industry in which even the inexperienced thrive.

Already in most of the small towns surrounded by progressive fruit farmers there is a general demand for canneries for the preservation of the surplus small fruits that yield so profusely. In the case of peaches, apples, melons and such garden crops as beans, peas, corn and tomatoes, the immediate demand for the fresh product is as yet so much in excess of the supply that it will be some time before canneries will be required for them. Peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, nectarines and other small fruits all seem to be natives in Oklahoma, for there are no known instances of moderately intelligent cultivation in which any of them failed.

In a territory as young as Oklahoma the opportunities for buying out some restless or discontented settler are always good. Many have come there after spending the greater part of their

lives in older communities, and cannot finally tear themselves away from the "old home" habit of so many years. A few are of the restless sort who never remain anywhere long, who could not make a permanent home in Paradise, so mighty is their impulse to be on the go. From such as these it is often possible to purchase farms which are already highly improved at prices that are not within one-fifth of their real values. There is yet, in the western and southwestern sections of the territory, considerable government land subject to homestead; in all portions of Oklahoma are fine school lands which can be leased at low prices; and there are railroad and territorial lands that can be bought for the proverbial song.

No territory, and few of the states, can boast a better school system than Oklahoma. Besides a more than adequate equipment of public schools and almost lavish provisions for their main-

TURNING THE CROP INTO COIN.

tenance, Oklahoma has a territorial university, normal school, and agricultural and mechanical colleges established, maintained and flourishing under the statutes and management of the territory. The character of the settlers who have thus far made Oklahoma the most successful "New Country" in history is largely responsible for the exceptionally high social, religious and educational advantages offered by every town and county in it. The percentage of population over fifty years of age is lower than that of any other state or territory; the percentage of American born citizens is higher than that of any middle-western or western state or territory; the percentage of illiterates is lower than that of nine-tenths of the states and territories, and the percentage of crime in the cities of Oklahoma is less than that in any other corresponding group of American urban communities.

OKLAHOMA GRADE HEREFORDS.

These are some of the influences which help to account for the astonishing degree of civilization and culture at once apparent all over Oklahoma. But there are others. The high state of perfection to which all modern utilities have come; the telephone, the telegraph, the electric motor, the ice making dynamo, up-to-date agricultural contrivances, the ubiquity and cheapness of "news" literature, good newspapers, books and the thousand other facilities, utensils and blessings which were unknown to the pioneers and the Argonauts of even twenty years ago, are conveniences as well as necessities for the stalwart young race of Americans which has upbuilt and will upbuild Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado even beyond the hitherto matchless achievements of imperial Kansas.

Following is the gist of the law and the list of exemptions to the heads of families: The homestead of a family outside of a town or village, 160 acres in one tract, with all improvements thereon, and the homestead in a city, with all improvements upon one acre, are exempt to the head of a family residing in Oklahoma one year against every kind of forced sale for the collection of debts. Personal property as follows is exempt: Household and kitchen furniture, tools, apparatus, books, implements used in trade or profession, portraits, pictures and clothing, five milch cows and their calves under six months old, two horses or two mules, one yoke of oxen, and one wagon, dray or cart, ten hogs and twenty sheep, forage and food for home consumption and for exempt stock for twelve months. Married women may sue and be sued, transact business, make contracts, own property free from their husband's debts, the same as if single.

Indian Territory

Indian Territory contains 31,441 square miles. The census of 1900 shows a population of 391,960, of which 300,400 are white. These figures, however, can do no more than give the basis upon which the present population can be estimated. Until very recently the "West" to which Horace Greeley referred in his wise

advice to the young man embraced so many sections that the Indian Territory was the last selected by the homeseeker because of the limit placed upon the possibilities of ownership. Other sections were settled first. A generation ago the pioneer moved to Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas till the cry of "Westward Ho!" brought him at length to the foot of the Rockies. Then came the Oklahoma opening in 1889, the most unique and spectacular handicap that ever attracted national attention. Nearly a hundred thousand people dashed over the border in a wild scramble for the choicest claims. They entered on horseback, in prairie schooners or by train. Oklahoma City had a population of 5,000 in an hour's time, and throughout the territory cities sprang up in a night.

A different plan was adopted in the opening of southeastern Oklahoma, August 6, 1901, when claims were chosen by lot. In the Indian Territory, which presents practically the last opportunity to get a good homestead cheap, a still different plan obtains. The Indian is the only direct beneficiary, a parcel of land of his own choosing being allotted to him. Of this he will be empowered to sell certain portions at certain intervals. Heretofore it has been impossible for a settler to get a deed to any property whatever outside the town site limits; and the intelligence of this plan is good news to thousands of farmers and stockmen in the old states who have the western fever and a strong desire to make their fortunes. The Seminoles have already received their allotment. The Choctaw and Chickasaw settlement comes next, and the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible. Tribal governments are being wound up and will cease to exist after March 4, 1906. There is therefore a steady increase in population which cannot be enumerated with any degree of accuracy.

Just far enough north to escape the sultry heat of the tropical summer, though not too far to reap the benefits of the gulf breezes, just far enough south to insure mild winters, Indian Territory presents a climate which is unexcelled. Nowhere can there be found a more genial, balmy and healthful country.

The soil is fertile for a great variety of production; well watered throughout, and heavily timbered in sections. The prairie land in the Cherokee and Creek Nations has more or less lime in its composition and is well adapted to the production of wheat. The country to the south and east is more mountainous and broken, a vast area of which is underlaid with enormous deposits of coal. The tillable land of this section is especially adapted to the growth of cotton, corn, fruits and vegetables.

Among the agricultural and horticultural products of commercial importance wheat, cotton, corn, oats, barley, rye, millet,

BUILT OUT OF THE PROFITS.

alfalfa, potatoes and all vegetables, fruits, grapes and nut trees are the most flourishing. The Oklahoma wheat belt, noted the world over, extends southeast over a part of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Cotton is grown all over the territory, yielding from a half bale per acre on the upland to a bale and a half in the bottoms. It is a rare country indeed where wheat and cotton yield so abundantly side by side. This seems to be the point where the two belts merge.

The possibilities of cotton as a paying staple must not be overlooked by the prospective homeseeker from the north. Cottonseed and other by-products, which formerly were thrown away as useless, now bring a sufficient revenue to pay the entire expense of handling the crop.

The timber lands embrace approximately 1,000,000 acres, mostly in the Choctaw Nation, and consist of walnut, pecan, pine, oak, locust, elm and ash.

Coal, zinc, marble, limestone, lead, copper and silver have been found in the territory, but with the exception of the extensive deposits of coal, none have been developed to any extent.

The supply of bituminous coal in the Indian Territory is practically inexhaustible. Howe, Wister, Hughes, Red Oak, Wilburton, Hartshorne, Haileyville, Alderson, Krebs and South McAlester, all points on the Choctaw Railroad from the Arkansas line almost 100 miles west, owe their origin to the coal beds in their respective vicinities. The veins range from four to five feet in thickness and the quality is excellent.

The supply of labor has been insufficient to fill the demand, notwithstanding the expert miner receives $4 to $8 per day.

By the terms of the original treaties these lands were held by the tribes in common, a form of civil government which has proved a failure wherever tried. So many abuses, irregularities and entanglements resulted that congress at length determined to equalize the common property as the only practical measure toward the betterment of conditions. The plan adopted is briefly this: To allot lands to the individual Indian, and in due course of time to make him a self-reliant citizen of the United States, each citizen of the several nations to receive his or her portion, regardless of age; to segregate town sites and mineral and surplus lands, and to place them on sale to white investors or settlers. Each citizen will have his share in the proceeds from this sale, the value of the coal lands alone having been estimated at $20,000,000.

For the proving up and identification of lawful allottees, the appraisement of lands and the general supervision of allotments the Dawes Commission was created. To show what a tremendous task was set for this commission, the appraisement of the Choctaw and Chickasaw lands alone, embracing over 11,000,000 acres and ranging from twenty-five cents to $6.50 an acre, is given below:

Class.	Schedule Description.	Acreage.	Price.	Value.	Acreage of Allotment.
1	Natural open bottom land.	84,242.30	$6.50	$ 547,574.95	160.19
2 (a)	Cleared bottom land.....	18,414.55	6.50	119,694.54	160.19
2 (b)	Best black prairie land..	65,210.07	6.50	423,865.45	160.19
3	*Bottom land covered with timber and thickets....	431,649.02	6.50	2,805,718.63	160.19
4 (a)	Best prairie land other than black	262,791.75	6.00	1,576,750.50	173,55
4 (b)	Bottom land subject to overflow	464,053.39	5.50	2,552,293.64	189.32
5 (a)	Prairie land, smooth and tillable	2,031,304.26	5.00	10,156,521.30	208.26
5 (b)	Swamp land, easily drainable	33,662.70	4.50	151,482.15	231.39
6 (a)	Rough prairie land.....	352,320.96	4.00	1,411,283.84	260.32
6 (b)	*Upland with hard timber.	3,882,941.44	3.25	12,619,559.68	320.39
7 (a)	Rocky prairie land.....	337,308.83	3.00	1,011,926.49	347.09
7 (b)	Swamp land, not easily drainable	41,261.20	2.50	103,153.00	416.51
8 (a)	Alkali prairie land.....	41,411.00	2.00	82,822.00	520.64
8 (b)	Hilly and rocky land....	1,698,442.94	1.50	2,547,654.41	684.19
8 (c)	Swamp land, not easily drainable	16,880.02	1.00	16,880.02	1,041.28
8 (d)	Mountain pasture land...	342,458.30	1.00	342,458.30	1,041.28
9 (a)	*Sandy land with pine timber	265,594.12	.75	199,195.59	1,388.37
9 (b)	*Mountain land with pine timber	765,895.91	.50	382,947.95	2,082.56
10	Rough mountain land	516,808.95	.25	129,202.24	4.165.12
	Total acreage	11,653,151.71	Tot. val.	$37,180,994.68	

*If the timber is of commercial value it will be appraised separately.

The treaty provides for the allotment of 320 acres of average allottable land to each citizen of the nations and to each member of his family. When an Indian receives patent to his land he will be allowed to sell off the part not reserved as a homestead, one-fourth in one year, one-fourth in three years and the remainder in five years. The homestead must be held for twenty-one years. The value of this tract is equivalent to forty acres average allottable land as a minimum and 160 acres as a maximum, the treaties made with the several nations varying in this respect. The use of the expression "average allottable" makes it possible for him to sell the best or worst of his tract, as he may desire.

The total homestead reservation withheld from the market by this provision is estimated to be about one-third the total acreage of the territory.

The inquiry then arises: "How much land will be open to purchase by white men, and when can it be bought?"

Approximately two-thirds of the entire area will be sold, the surplus at once and the remainder at intervals for the next five years. The acreage of surplus land depends very largely upon the choice of the majority of Indians. Of one thing, however, there is a certainty: When the allotment has been accomplished, when the royalties held in trust for the Indians by the United States have been paid over and when the proceeds from the sale of their mineral lands have been divided, there will be more wealth per capita in the Indian Territory than in any other part of the United States of equal area.

Take then the fact of the wonderful resources of the country, consider at the same time the capital which will go to further its development, and in the prosperity which the easy money market will effect is it not safe to assume that there is a chance for all to "grow up" in that development; for the investor or operator to magnify his talents; for the stock raiser to widen his range; for the farmer to enlarge the scope of his horizon; and the laborer, be he miner, farm hand or wage earner in whatever capacity, to become his own employer in this land of opportunity?

Summary

In this short descriptive treatise of that section of the Great Southwest outlined in the initial pages and tapped or traversed by the Rock Island System and its tributaries particular attention has been given and probably the most space to those sections least understood, least attractive and yet capable of the greatest opportunities for those who are alive to the rapidly changing conditions of affairs in the southwest. But whether an adequate recital has been made, or whether the richest and most alluring portions of this vast empire have been slighted, one fact must stand forth unmistakably, viz., for health, for economy of investment and cost of living, for the balminess of its climate, for the number and equability of its working days, for the delight and advantages of life outdoors, the whole region

described is simply without peer or rival upon the face of the earth.

No effort has been made to exaggerate or misstate the actual conditions obtaining in the southwest. The disadvantages to the small settler or poor homesteader of settling in the great pasture lands have been pointed out as truthfully as have the superior opportunities there offered to the farming cattleman of sufficient means. Here, as elsewhere in the world, industry, intelligence and economy are essential to the welfare of the newcomer. But here, as nowhere else in America, nature is not only the handmaid of the husbandman, but a surety for the health and happiness of his women and children, for the safety and thrift of his fields and herds, co-operating with him through the long, invigorating summers, sparing both his flesh and his finances during the sunny winters, and coming early and quick to his aid in the spring before the frosts and snows of northern and eastern states have vanished from the metallic earth. These are facts that can be best proved by a visit to the regions described. They are patent from the fact that the Texas, the Oklahoma, the New Mexico, the Arkansas and the Indian Territory homeseekers of the past ten years have seldom been compelled to "hike back to their wives' folks." Most of these happy, prosperous and sturdy people of the southwest could not be driven with a club back to the north and east. It is the only perennially delightful region of the United States that is *not* "all climate." It has the ideal atmospheric conditions of southern California, with soils as rich and exhaustless as Illinois, with rainfalls adequate for the perfection of agricultural results, or with natural supplies of storable water sufficient for the last limit of scientific farming by irrigation.

The southwest is in need of nothing except people. Its hills and valleys are rich in fuel, timber, ores, oil, asphalt, gas, granite, gypsum, onyx, cement, brick clay, salt. Its fields, orchards, vineyards, gardens, although they have been developed no more than to a tenth of their possibilities, have been thus far, and for a time may continue to be, the chief and surest source of the prosperity of the people. Fate, in all fairness, has always served her best to those who came first, and it is certain that as the years fly by the golden opportunities now offered to the homeseeker and settler in the southwest will dwindle in numbers as the exactions increase. Low as the prices of farms and town sites now are, they have yet advanced symmetrically for the past ten years. Although you can buy homes there now for from one-tenth to one-half the prices demanded in the north and east, the day will come when these relative values will be reversed in favor of the southwestern empire, where all work is profit and it is a pleasure even to draw one's breath.

DAIRY CATTLE NEAR OKLAHOMA CITY.

From Those Who Are There.

There is no testimony like the testimony of the man on the ground. For that reason the following letters from residents of Oklahoma, Texas, Indian Territory and New Mexico will be found of interest. They are, for the most part, written by persons who, when they removed to the southwest, had little or no capital. These people have made homes for themselves and are now on the road to independence.

The Rock Island States Southwest are peopled by the most energetic and enthusiastic men and women in the country. These people are satisfied, that the section or country of which they are residents is the most fertile and the most healthful part of the United States. They are convinced that in no other section of the country are the opportunities so great or the rewards so liberal. Their letters are offered as evidence that their belief is founded on fact.

An Illinois Man Thinks Oklahoma a Farmer's Paradise.

I thought it might be of interest to you to hear from one in what I think is the finest farm district in the southwest, and to hear how this country is farmed, and how serviceable to a farmer Greer county, Okla., is.

I came to this country from Illinois, where land rented for what it might be bought here, and where land was harder to cultivate and required fertilizer to produce the same yield that we get here.

The soil here is that rich, mellow, not too sandy, chocolate colored soil, which is so easily tilled and requires so little cultivation to produce an abundant crop. Anything can be grown here in this soil and climate that can be grown in the north, and besides that, many varieties, which it would be useless to try there. Wheat does splendidly. After having afforded an ample pasture for the cattle through the winter, it yields a better crop of grain than in the north.

Cotton was never known to fail in this country, and it yields from one-half to a bale of five hundred pounds to the acre, and is always sure money.

Before coming to Oklahoma, I was told that Irish potatoes did not winter well in this country, but I have found this report to be untrue in all respects.

This and many other false reports reach the ears of people who have thought of coming to this farmers' paradise of the southwest, and I know could they but hear and see things as I have seen them, they would never return to the north, or anywhere else, to farm.

The reason that this country is not better developed is because the average farmer, that is now here, does not know, and does not try to find out, what an abundant crop this country will yield.

This, I think, is the best place for a young man and a man with small means to do a great deal. There are so many more chances for a man here, and so many more golden opportunities, and not so many who seek to improve them. Most of the people here figure on making a living, and don't care for anything more.

The climate here is fine, and the air is so invigorating that it necessarily makes a person feel more energetic and more like he wanted to work.

This must needs be the best place for a farmer; the land costs less, the produce brings more, or at least as much, and the supplies a farmer needs, such as tools and the like, cost about the same as in the north.

One thing that is not well advanced and has a large field in this country is the dairy business. I can see no reason why it should not pay; in fact, it must pay. Milk here in Mangum at times cannot be bought at any price, simply because it is not produced; and butter is something I have not tasted since I left Illinois, that is, butter such as is put out by the Illinois creameries. Milk is easily produced, as pasture is cheap and cattle somewhat so, and we have good, clear, cool water, one of the absolute necessities in the manufacture of good butter.

Now that this country is opened up the northern farmers are coming in and fast taking the place of the cattlemen. The country is all fenced. Finer land than can be seen in Wisconsin and Illinois can be bought here for from $12.50 to $20 per acre, depending, of course, upon location, improvements, etc. The land will not stay at this price very long, and it will soon all be owned by farmers from the older states, and in my estimation it is worth just as much as the land in the older parts of Oklahoma and in the older states.

It is my candid opinion, as well as that of several other northern farmers I have met here, that this is surely a farmers' paradise; and should any one wish to learn more about this beautiful country, I shall be delighted to answer any questions, and give any information they may desire from my limited supply.

ROBERT L. WEBER.

Mangum, Greer Co., Okla.

A Farmer All His Life and Likes Oklahoma the Best.

I have been a farmer all my life. (Am now 55 years old.) I owned and cultivated a farm in northwest Missouri twenty-five years. Have lived here twelve years.

I was making a living in Missouri, but that was about all, and I thought I could better my condition and give my boys a chance to grow up with the country by going to the great southwest.

We have plenty of soft, wholesome water here, and we do not have to dig but twenty-five to fifty feet to get a good well of water. We have a variety of soils here, from the black, sandy loam, to the red, clayey sort, none of which can be said to be poor. The seasons here have been favorable since the opening of the country, with the single exception of 1901, and then there was a good cotton crop raised, for this is said to be one of the best cotton districts in Oklahoma. We also grow corn extensively. I have seen hundreds of fields here that would average seventy-five bushels to the acre. As for potatoes, cabbage, sweet potatoes and melons of all kinds, we can not be surpassed. Wheat and oats are also raised here with a profit, giving good yield and of superior quality. This, too, is a fine fruit country. Peaches, plums, apricots and pears can be produced here without much effort. Apples require more care, but are successfully grown. I have an orchard that produces apples that for size, color or flavor, will compare favorably with the apples of Kansas, Missouri or Illinois, as I have seen and used apples from those states and know whereof I write. Nor am I alone. My neighbors have the same, and as for transportation of our products, it is all we can desire. To my brother farmers of the north and east who want to better their condition, I would advise them to visit the great and growing southwest. They will find it a land of much promise. As an illustration of what has been done here, I will cite you to one of my neighbors, Isaac Joskey by name, whose post-office is McLoud (and he is only one of a score of others whom I know have done as well). He came here at the opening of this country, with a team of horses and a large family of children.

He had no money. He built a shack with poles, end-stuck in the ground for sides. He covered it with clapboards, moved his family into it. He then walked a distance of twenty-five miles, got a job on the railroad. He has his farm well improved now, and bought another this fall at a cost of $2,250, cash down.

JOHN MALONE.

McLoud, O. T.

A Woman Tells About Farming in New Mexico—Thinks Climate the Best in the World.

On the 27th day of July, 1901, we alighted from the Alamogordo & Sacramento Mountain Railroad at a little station called Highrolls in Otero county, N. M. With a wagon we went three miles further up the mountains to a farm located in what is called South Fresnal Canyon.

The place had 160 acres, which we bought, paying $1,250 cash. It had only a small log cabin for dwelling, so we had to have a house built at once.

We found lumber in abundance, in the two saw mills near Cloudcroft, about nine miles away; rough lumber selling at $12 per 1,000 feet and dressed at $22.50 per 1,000.

There was about 25 acres of land in cultivation, all of which can be irrigated. The crop growing on the place consisted of corn, cabbage, sorghum, turnips and Irish potatoes, which had been planted and turned loose to grow with the weeds. There are two small orchards on the place containing about 150 fruit trees each with the following fruit: Apples, peaches, plums, cherries, pears and grapes, which do well here. In fact, the apples and peaches grown in these mountains far exceed in both size and flavor anything grown in the Rio Grande or Pecos valleys. One great advantage we have here in fruit culture is that there are no insects or pests to mar or injure the fruit.

My husband was appointed mounted inspector of customs at El Paso, Tex., a few days after we bought the farm, which he accepted and went back. That left the hired boy, myself and two little girls to run the farm. We spent the fall and winter cutting down and digging up wild rose bushes and brush from near the house and fence corners, building fences, laying off flower beds, walks, and leveling the ground for a lawn.

In March I made a trade with a man to work the farm on shares. We began planting about the first of April, Irish potatoes, lettuce, beets, turnips, radishes, onions and English peas; cabbage, pepper, and tomato seed we planted in a hot bed. All our seed came up in due time and grew off nicely. Corn was planted next, then came sorghum, barley, oats and beans; cabbage was set out June 25th to July 15th.

I planted and tended my garden, which was about one acre of ground, all myself, doing all the work except plowing. I raised the following vegetables: Cabbage, cucumbers, radishes, lettuce, beets, turnips, carrots, tomatoes, canteloupes, beans (several kinds), onions, peas, celery, pumpkins, squashes, pepper, rutabagas, and mustard.

In small fruit I had strawberries, gooseberries, currants and blackberries. Next year I will add dewberries and raspberries.

Corn made 50 bushels to the acre, oats grow six feet high; beets, carrots and turnips grow very large and the yield is enormous.

Our climate is one of the best in the world. We have been here over one year and there has never been a day that we did not see the sunshine at least part of the day. Though it snows a good deal in the winter and rains considerable during the

summer, we never have any cyclones, or very strong winds, and no dust storms.

Our altitude is about 5,000 to 7,000 feet and is highly recommended for any one with weak lungs. We have very picturesque scenery. I can stand on my front porch and look westward and see the great plains with the Organ range of mountains rising in the background over 90 miles away. These plains are covered partly with white sand which glistens in the sunshine like water. Down these plains, almost at the foot of our mountains, runs the Rock Island railroad, where we can see the great steam engines pulling westward the large trains loaded with freight and passengers bound for the Golden State, Mexico, and other places of importance. Then, we can turn around and look east, south and north, and view the Sacramento mountains, which are covered with very large and valuable evergreen trees, such as pine, cedar, juniper, spruce and fir.

On the summit of one part of this range of mountains is built one of the most picturesque summer resorts in the west. It nestles among the clouds and is carpeted with millions of wild flowers, shaded by beautiful green trees and watered with ice cold spring water, pure and clear as crystal, and is very rightly called Cloudcroft.

In order to reach this great place of rustic beauty you have to travel on the Rock Island railroad until you reach Alamogordo, New Mexico, where you take the Alamogordo & Sacramento (Rock Island System) road, which winds and climbs up the mountains till it reaches the clouds, and lands you at Cloudcroft where the sun shines 365 days every year.

Highrolls, N. M. MRS. J. W. SAUNDERS.

The Texas "Panhandle"—Its Resources Place It in the Foremost Ranks of the Great Southwest.

I came to this country from Johnson county in September, 1890, having $2,000 to start with. During the first year I fenced my entire section and necessary crossfences, and put in 150 acres in wheat, oats, corn and sorghum. I had 14 acres of old ground in oats which made 100 bushels per acre. My oats on new ground made 35 bushels per acre. Corn on new ground made 15 bushels per acre, and wheat, 23 bushels per acre.

I sold my wheat at $1 per bushel, and oats at 50 to 65 cents per bushel. I also put out 100 peach trees the first year and planted peach seed. One tree from this seed came up in March, and within eighteen months afterward had borne and ripened a peach of moderate size and excellent flavor.

I raised two extra good crops of Irish potatoes on new ground the first year, and have always raised good potatoes. The second year I put out apples, plums and apricots, and since they began bearing we have never been without fruit. Several peach trees bore peaches 9½ inches in circumference, and these not just two or three large ones to the tree, but all of uniform size, year after year. I have seen wild plums gathered in this country which measured four inches in circumference. I have successfully raised cabbage, tomatoes, turnips, beans, onions, radishes and all kinds of vegetables that I have tried.

I have raised pumpkins that measured three inches to the hollow and 350 bushels of sweet potatoes per acre. My main crops have been wheat, oats, corn, millet, sorghum, and of late years, kaffir corn. My largest yield of any of these any year has been of wheat, 2,500 bushels; oats, 2,300 bushels; Kaffir corn, 800 bushels; millet, 100 tons; sorghum, 170 tons. My average yield has been: Wheat, 15; corn, 25; oats, 35, and millet, Kaffir corn and sorghum in proportion.

We have flowers in bloom in our yard from early spring until frost, and roses in profusion throughout the year.

I now have a residence and two rent houses on my place; also a town residence and grounds. My property may be easily valued at $12,000, which is very good, considering I have been here during the time the country was developing and have seen the old sod house and dugout change to comfortable and substantial residences throughout the country, and the cowboys' campground to the playground of the modern schoolhouse and church. We have better health here than we ever had before, and can certainly say this is a healthy country.

We have good schools, Sunday schools, preaching and everything that intelligent, energetic people can devise for the advancement and progress of a country which from the very nature of her resources is destined and is already taking her place in the foremost ranks of the great southwest.

Shamrock, Wheeler county, Tex. W. H. BRADLEY.

Has Lots to Be Thankful for—An Oklahoma Farmer's Wife Gives Her Views.

I have been a farmer's wife only since February last, but really the change in occupation is good for one. My husband was a contractor and builder at Hutchinson, Kas.; but he was fortunate enough to draw a claim in sunny Oklahoma. He had several chances to sell before moving on the claim for $1,500, but decided to keep it for a home.

The longer we live here the better we like the country, and I have heard the same remark made by several of my neighbors. We had only a sod crop this year, but we have a goodly amount to be thankful for this Thanksgiving; plenty of feed for our stock, potatoes, beans, cabbage, green tomato pickles, cucumber pickles, over 100 chickens, some turkeys and about 50 acres of wheat, looking fine.

Best of all, we have good health. My friends thought us foolish to take our children (five in number) out of good schools for a claim; but the schools here are as good as in older towns. We are only poor people, but have some good neighbors who have plenty of money from northern Missouri, who have bought a claim for three of their children. The first they paid $1,600, the second $1,800, the third $2,200 and expect to buy the fourth before claims go higher, which they certainly will.

We need some good elevators to take charge of the wheat raised here. This same neighbor has 105 acres in wheat and expects to have 300 acres next year. In the spring they will have five sod plows to prepare for fall wheat. They are delighted with this country—and who wouldn't be after seeing it?

There are men here almost every day wanting to know "If our claim is for sale?" Now is the time to buy if you intend to buy at all.

I can't begin to make it plain to you so you will realize how rapidly this country has grown; seeing is believing; I can hardly believe my own eyes. Only one year has elapsed, and such vast improvement and growth of towns, almost cities in one year! It sounds unreasonable but nevertheless it is true.

MRS. G. SCHMIDT.

Lone Wolf, O. T., Nov. 27, 1902.

An Oklahoma Farmer Gives Figures—Splendid Result of Two Years' Efforts.

We came to Oklahoma about two years ago with $6,000. We bought two farms; the first one cost us $4,500 cash. There

was 80 acres in wheat. We got it all. It threshed out 1,700 bushels of wheat that tested 64 strong this year. We had 600 bushels off of the same 80 acres. This farm has the finest apple orchard and other fruits, including peach, pear, plum, apricot, nectarines, cherries, the largest I have ever seen grown; grapes, strawberries, red and black raspberries, and black cherries. I have been offered $8,000 for this farm. We sold 4,700 pounds of grapes last year and 2,000 pounds this year at one and a half to two and a half cents per pound. Our apple orchard is only seven or eight years old. We only had a few apples last year. This year we had over 100 bushels. We sold all we had to sell at $1 per bushel. Had three bushels of fine pears, this from four trees; could have got $2 per bushel. The amount of wheat received off of the two farms last year was 2,383⅓ and could have sold at 82 cents, but we got about 65 cents for all wheat raised on the two farms this year, $1,704.

The second farm cost us $3,000. We paid $1,000 down and gave mortgage for the balance. There was 90 acres in wheat on this farm. We received one-third in the bushel. It threshed out 2,050 bushels, as we got 683⅓ bushels. We raised eight acres of oats. It only made 200 bushels; twenty acres of corn, 200 bushels. This year we had 70 acres in wheat, or 1,104; 15 acres of oats, 900 bushels. Sold $45 worth of hay last year; have more than that to sell this year. The real estate agent offered to sell this farm for me for $5,000, but we don't want to sell them, as Oklahoma is all O. K. We could have sold these two farms and made $5,500.

We have done very well since coming to Oklahoma. I was twenty years in Nebraska saving the $6,000.

Waukomis, Okla., Nov. 23, 1902. WM. BAKER.

Twenty Years Behind a Counter; Knew Nothing About Farming, but Making a Success of It in Oklahoma.

Not many men came to Oklahoma with smaller capital than I did. When I came to Hobart last spring to locate on my land, about all I owned in the world besides the land was my wife and baby, one hundred dollars and my two hands.

I had never in my life lived on a farm, and of farming was absolutely ignorant. In February I rode out on top of a load of lumber with the carpenter and helped put up the first house I ever owned, a little one room 14x16 box house, which cost me $47.50, and which is still our residence. I had no team and no means of procuring one, but the neighbors are kindly here and all help one another, so I helped the people on the next quarter section dig their well, and they in return, broke about five acres of my land. This I sowed in early spring, vegetables, melons, etc., and I found it gave me plenty to do to take care of that much, as my farming tools were of the simplest description, that is a spade and a hoe.

In May I had onions, radishes and lettuce for the market, and they sold readily. Other vegetables followed later; cucumbers sold at two for 5 cents and I could not pick them fast enough. In June I had potatoes, and now I have in a second crop. I disposed of my potatoes in town at 60 cents a bushel, which netted me a fine profit. Canteloupes we have had in profusion since June and sell at 5 cents each. Watermelons I think I had about as soon as any one in Kiowa county. The first we got 25 cents each for; now, of course, as they are plentiful, 5 cents is about all they will bring, but even at that, they pay well.

Our Indian neighbors are good customers in the watermelon line and never pass the place without stopping to buy one.

Our tomato plants are now loaded with good sized tomatoes, though still green. Next year I will start them earlier. All the vegetables that we planted turned out well and are a source of profit. We invested in a few chickens, and found them easy to keep and a desirable addition to our bill of fare. Our fuel we secured by driving to the mountains, six miles away, and picking the dead limbs of trees, which we could have for the taking. Our fish we get in the Elk Creek, only a few miles away, and costs us nothing but the exertion of getting it. We have more quail on toast here than we had in the larger cities where we lived before. Groceries and meats, of which, however, we need but little, we find as cheap here as in our old home.

Of course, I am at a disadvantage in not having a team and implements to work the balance of my farm, but as it is covered with a lot of blue stern grass, I have had a neighbor cut and stack it on shares, and this will increase my income somewhat this year.

But considering all disadvantages and drawbacks, I have proved that a man who has spent twenty years of his life behind a counter, knowing nothing of farming, with no capital, no implements, with very little exertion, can take this bare land and in six months not only make a comfortable living, but save considerable money. JOSEPH P. HOLDEN.

Hobart, O. T., August, 1902.

What a Nebraskan Has Done in Sunny Oklahoma.

His Friends Said When He Left Nebraska That He Would Soon Be Back.

(*Valley, Neb., Enterprise.*)

As many of my friends said when I left Nebraska that I would soon come back, I would like to tell them what I am doing and what I have done since leaving that country and locating in sunny Oklahoma.

We arrived in Asher, in Pottawatomie county, Okla., on the 5th day of April—very late to plant our crops—but must say that I was surprised at the growth and yield, as they will see. I planted thirty acres of cotton, and picked and sold sixteen bales, which sold with the seed for $800, or $26.66 for each acre planted on land that cost less than $20 per acre, as I paid but $1,500 for eighty acres.

Our corn did not do as well as it should, as we were just one month behind in planting, but still am well satisfied, as we harvested thirty bushels the acre, and it is selling at 45 cents per bushel and brings us $13.50 per acre. Had it been planted when it should it would have made sixty bushels easily.

On my farm there is about twenty-five acres of natural prairie, from which we cut one and one-half tons of hay to the acre, which sells at $8 a ton.

Many of my friends would ask me how I like the country, the climate and water. The soil is all right, as you see from the yield; climate as good as anywhere in the United States; water is pure and plenty, and there is timber enough for fuel, fencing, etc. The soil here grows everything—fruits, vegetables, grains, cotton, corn, two crops potatoes each season on the same ground, sugar beets; in fact, any and all crops of both north and south; and they all yield abundantly. I also want to mention stock and poultry, and let my friends know that they do better here and produce more money each year with less care than in any place I have ever been.

Should any of my friends care to make any further enquiries I will gladly answer them. E. A. REPASS.

Asher, Pottawatomie county, Southeastern Okla.

Thinks Indian Territory Best Place for People of Small Means.

Has Traveled Much, but Never Saw Its Equal for Farming.

I moved to the Chickasaw Nation from Texas in November, 1899, and stopped in the town of Comanche nearly two months. Owing to the unsettled condition of the country, could not have purchased land if I had been able, so I rented land on Cow Creek, three miles north of Comanche (about fifty acres), planted thirty acres in cotton and twenty in corn. Made twenty-two bales of cotton and 500 bushels of corn, worth $1,187.50, and only with the help of one grown son and one boy ten years old; made about $100 outside of my crop, besides 180 bushels of oats, and sold $64 worth of hogs and $6.60 worth of chickens, over and above home needs, all from a very small beginning, for I only had $15 when I landed in the town of Comanche.

Thinking it would improve my wife's health, I moved back to Texas in the winter of 1900. When the Comanche country opened I came to Fort Sill and registered, but got no claim, so came over into Chickasaw and rented again, four miles southwest of Comanche; planted thirty acres in cotton and gathered twelve bales off it; ten acres in corn and gathered 220 bushels. Corn and cotton both were worth $626. I bought a small start of hogs—ten pigs—and have sold $42 worth of pork, keeping 700 pounds for my own use. I have a sow and five pigs left. I also raised twenty-five bushels of Irish potatoes and twenty bushels of sweet potatoes, fine turnips and all other garden vegetables that will grow anywhere in the north temperate zone.

There is an orchard on this place of about thirty peach trees, bearing excellent fruit for the last three years. This is confessedly the best country I ever saw for a man of moderate means to make a living or to get a start, if he will only use industry and economy. It is a fine country to raise stock, the winters being short and mild. Cattle and horses go through the winter here very often without feed. It is also a fine country to raise fowls. I bought my wife eight hens to start with, and she has sold $950 worth of chickens. We have seventy-four left, besides those for our own use. We have kept no account of the eggs she has sold, but they are selling all the time at 20 cents per dozen; butter at 25 cents. My wife preserved fifteen gallons of peaches and canned three dozen half-gallon jars, put up four gallons of sweet pickles and preserved three gallons of grapes that grew on the place.

We have good health and good water here. Can get water from wells at from sixteen to forty feet. In my judgment this is the place for a man of limited means to make money. I have traveled over several states and have never seen anything that will compare with this for farming.

O. E. MARTIN.

Comanche, I. T., December 9, 1902.

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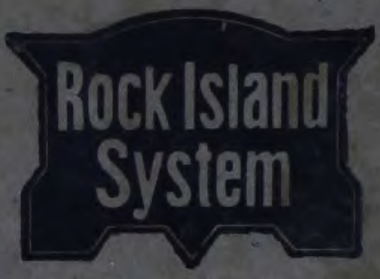
Rock Island
System